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It will definitely be a QB when Heisman Trophy is awarded Saturday

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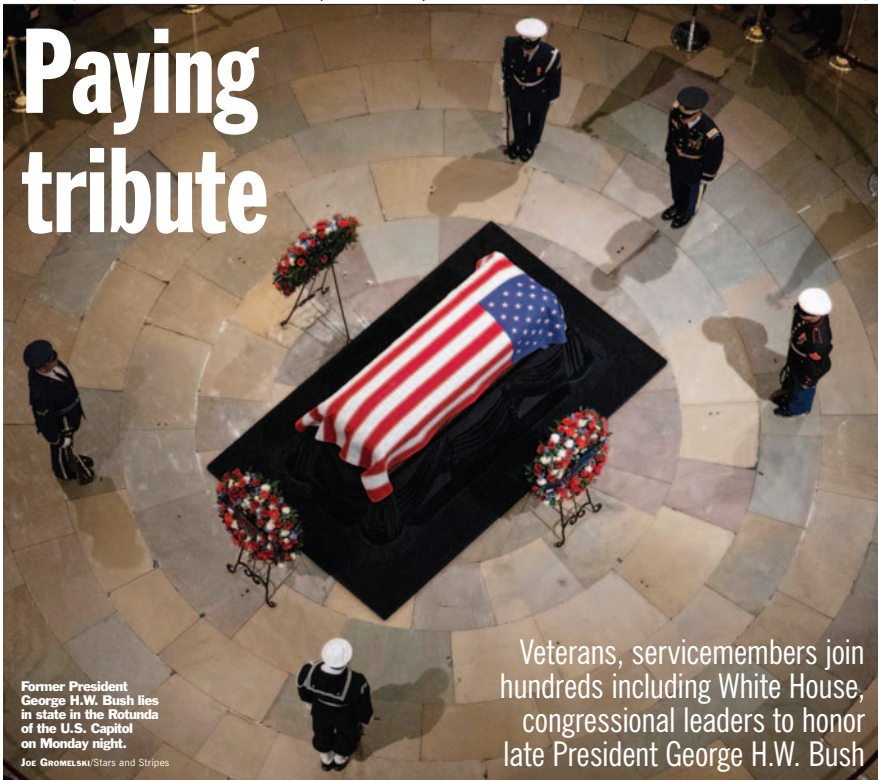
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Paying tribute



Former President George H.W. Bush lies in state in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on Monday night.

JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Veterans, servicemembers join hundreds including White House, congressional leaders to honor late President George H.W. Bush

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
AND NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

Kenneth and Wanda Deans arrived at about 7 p.m. Monday to take their place in a line that snaked down First Street on the east side of the Capitol to pay their respects to the late President George H.W. Bush.

A retired chief warrant officer, Kenneth Deans served 30 years in the Army, including through the Gulf War. On Monday night, he wore his "Vietnam veteran" cap as he waited to honor Bush, his former commander in chief.

Deans remembered Bush's visit to Fort Irwin in California, where he was stationed at the time. He said he felt a connection with the president because Bush had also served in the military.

"When you have a president who's also a hero from the war, and you're in the military, you feel some kind of kinship," said Deans, 67, from Alexandria, Va.

Hundreds of others joined the Deans on Monday in lines that meandered around the Capitol complex to be among the first wave of public visitors to honor the 41st president, who was remembered during an earlier ceremony for his military career, his leadership and his influence at the highest levels of government.

SEE TRIBUTE ON PAGE 8

After losing court battle, Pentagon to send green-card holders to recruit training

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The Pentagon will begin sending a backlog of thousands of green-card holders to recruit training, suspending a policy adopted by President Donald Trump's administration last year that required more stringent background checks for some immigrants wanting to serve, according to two defense officials and an internal memo.

The policy called for green-card hold-

ers to submit to and complete a full background check and respond to any concerns before they could go to boot camp. That was in addition to standard requirements for green-card applicants, such as biometrics screening.

The change put thousands of people in limbo as their screening languished and specific jobs within the military promised to them slipped away.

The new directive says that each armed

service must comply immediately with a preliminary injunction issued last month in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. In it, Judge Jon Tigar agreed with an argument from the lawyers of two prospective servicemembers and the American Civil Liberties Union that the Pentagon had not satisfactorily explained why new screening is necessary. Tigar said the policy should be disregarded.

SEE RECRUIT ON PAGE 5

The injunction eases pressure on a group of prospective troops that the Pentagon has long recruited, pitching self-betterment and, in some cases, a chance at U.S. citizenship.

MILITARY

Tornado injures 5 at Navy base in Georgia

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An apparent tornado damaged buildings, blew vehicles into the sea and injured five people on Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in southern Georgia on Sunday, base officials said.

The storm spared the Navy's Atlantic Ocean fleet of Ohio-class submarines based at Kings Bay, said Scott Bassett, a spokesman for the base just north of Georgia's border with Florida.

The base houses five nuclear-armed Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines and two Ohio-class guided-missile submarines, which have been converted to use conventional missiles, according to the Defense Department.

People injured in the likely tornado included two sailors who were on duty when the storm struck before 4 p.m. Sunday, Bassett said.

Another sailor and a civilian were injured while fishing from



PHOTOS BY AARON XAVIER SALDANA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Above: A utility trailer is overturned and damaged at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay as the result of a tornado that touched down Sunday evening. Right: The tornado downed trees at the base.



a pier on the installation. Another civilian was also reported injured, Bassett said Monday.

None of the injuries was considered serious or required overnight hospital stays, he said. The Weather Channel described the tornado as an EF1 storm, defined as a tornado that causes moderate damage and

produces winds from 86 to 110 miles per hour.

Bassett said the storm's damage was limited to one pier area.

The storm blew the roof off a small warehouse building, smashed windows of several vehicles and lifted two vehicles into the air that had been on the pier, blowing them into the water, he

said.

Base officials were still assessing the total damage to Kings Bay on Monday, Bassett said.

It was one of more than two dozen tornadoes, rare in the fall and winter months, reported across the nation over the weekend.

One person was killed when a

tornado touched down Friday in Missouri, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

More than 20 people were injured Saturday in tornadoes spawned from the same storm system, The Associated Press reported.

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Japanese woman indicted in stabbing death of US airman

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japanese authorities have indicted a 27-year-old Japanese woman accused of stabbing and killing a Yokota airman, prosecutors said in a statement last week.

Aria Saito, a Tokyo resident, was charged Friday with murder and violation of the Swords and Firearms Control Law, the statement said.

The office worker is accused of stabbing Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, 35, who was pronounced dead at a hospital Nov. 9.

Prosecutors said Saito stabbed the right side of Vollweiler's neck with an 8-inch knife held in her left hand with an intention of killing him.

The incident happened in the living room of his off-base home in Tachikawa near Yokota's east gate just before 8 p.m., according to the statement.

Vollweiler died from hemorrhagic shock

and suffocation from blood, according to prosecutors.

Saito is charged with illegal possession of the knife used in the stabbing as well as another 6.5-inch knife without a professional or justifiable reason, the statement said.

A trial date has not been set. Officials with the Tokyo District Court in Tachikawa would not confirm Tuesday whether Saito was still in custody or had been released on bond.

Vollweiler's duty assignments included Japan, Korea, Italy, Hawaii and New Jersey.

He received the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

At Yokota, he served as the Security Forces Squadron's chief of standards and evaluation.

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MILITARY



MARKUS CASTANEDA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) is pulled toward a pier after departing dry dock at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

Another destroyer leaves dry dock

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For the second time in one week, a 7th Fleet destroyer has left dry dock at Yokosuka Naval Base.

The USS Barry finished its yearlong stint undergoing repairs and modernizations at the Navy's Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center on Tuesday. Workers flooded the dry dock and floated the ship to its new home on the Yokosuka pier.

The Barry's undocking came one week after the USS John S. McCain was relocated Nov. 27 from dry dock to the pier. The McCain had been undergoing repairs since February following its fatal August 2017 collision near Singapore that killed 10 sailors and caused heavy damage to the ship's hull.

The McCain now has a "fully restored hull, a new port thrust shaft and newly constructed berthing spaces," the Navy said in a statement last week.

The Barry had been undergoing repairs since November 2017. During that time, the crew and repair and maintenance personnel "performed work on the underwater hull structure, superstructure and propulsion plant systems," the Navy said in a statement Tuesday. They also upgraded the destroyer's combat systems and berthing areas.

Cmdr. Cory Dyer, of Task Force 70 Maintenance, Material, Logistics and Readiness, in the statement called the Barry's Tuesday move a "major mile-

stone" that "brings the ship that much closer to completing" its restricted availability period.

Ships regularly go into restricted availability periods that take the vessels out of service for updates, repairs, trainings and other upkeep. The Navy said in its statement that those periods are necessary to maintain the fleet's readiness.

"As one of the premier forward-deployed operational units, leaving dry dock brings Barry one step closer to resuming full operational capabilities," deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 15 Capt. Steven DeMoss said in the statement.

The Barry and McCain's returns to the pier also mark a significant milestone for the 7th Fleet. The Yokosuka-based force had a deficit of destroyers after the separate, fatal McCain and USS Fitzgerald collisions last year took both ships out of service. The Fitzgerald remains under repair in Pascagoula, Miss.

Yokosuka welcomed the USS Milius destroyer to its fleet last summer, but former Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift told Stars and Stripes in 2017 that the Milius was not meant to replace the Fitzgerald and McCain.

While the McCain and Barry are out of dry dock, they are not yet in active service. It's unclear when the Barry will return to sea, but Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer told reporters in July that he expected the McCain go on patrol in the spring.

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Residents compensated for aircraft noise

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Japanese court has awarded \$842,000 to people living near the home of U.S. Forces Japan as compensation for aircraft noise, according to the leader of a residents group.

Tokyo District Court in Tachikawa ruled Friday that aircraft noise from Yokota is affecting 144 residents living near the western Tokyo base, Michio Fukumoto said Monday.

Residents sued the Japanese government in 2012 seeking compensation for past and future noise complaints and suspension of flights between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. The residents in their lawsuit complained that aircraft noise interrupted their sleep and, at times, even their conversations.

The court awarded compensation for past noise but rejected other demands, Fukumoto said. The plaintiffs are unlikely to see any payments from the Japanese government anytime soon.

"We have been raising our voices for more than 40 years," he said. "It is extremely disappointing that the court didn't go beyond the past rulings."

In 2016, Japan's Supreme Court ruled that future noise damage can't be properly assessed and that the Japanese government has no jurisdiction over operations by a foreign military, Kyodo News reported.

Fukumoto said the noise problem has worsened since CV-22 Ospreys began operations out of Yokota this year, with the aircraft often flying around 9 p.m.

"The damage has clearly in-

creased since CV-22 Ospreys were deployed but it is regrettable that the court didn't closely look at the current situation," he said. "The noise is tremendous near the base. This is not reflected in the court decision at all."

The residents plan to appeal the latest decision, Fukumoto said.

In previous lawsuits by residents living near other U.S. bases in Japan, courts have also ruled against awarding future noise damages and suspending late-night or early morning flights.

Last year, 1,000 residents living near Yokota were awarded \$5.4 million after a court said noise from the base was above the "tolerable limit" but rejected future compensation or banning flights between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

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US gives Russia a 60-day deadline on treaty compliance

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Russia has 60 days to come into compliance with a key nuclear treaty or else Washington will begin the process of quitting the landmark accord, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday.

"We either bury our head in the sand or we take common sense action," Pompeo said after talks at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Pompeo issued the ultimatum after discussions with NATO foreign ministers over Moscow's alleged violations of the 31-year-old nuclear treaty.

The Trump administration has been warning for months that it was prepared to cease compliance with the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty between Washington and Moscow.

The U.S., going back to the administration of former President Barack Obama, has accused Russia of developing a new missile system that violates the terms of the pact.

NATO members formally agreed Tuesday that Russia's new 9M729 missile was in breach of the decades-old deal between Washington and Moscow that bans missiles with a range between 310 and 3,400 miles, and that poses a "big threat to Europe." NATO's top official has warned that the new missile system could hit European capitals with only minutes notice.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Tuesday that time was running out to save a treaty that has been a cornerstone of European security policy.

"Russia now has a last chance to come back into compliance with the INF treaty, but we must also start to prepare for a world without the treaty," Stoltenberg said.

Pompeo's ultimatum was not unexpected.

German media have reported that the U.S. was poised to terminate the deal in Brussels this week, but a last-minute agreement between President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel resulted in a plan to delay the decision in hopes of a breakthrough with Moscow.

Stoltenberg said abolishing the treaty would be a "big setback" for European security.

"We call on Russia to return urgently to full and verifiable compliance with the INF treaty. It is now up to Russia to preserve the INF treaty," he said.

Russia, meanwhile, has denied that it is in violation of the missile

agreement.

Moscow says it will consider military countermeasures should Washington follow through with its plan to quit the treaty.

Before the NATO meeting, Pompeo on Tuesday delivered a wide-ranging speech in Brussels that alleged international treaty violations by Russia, China and Iran. He said allies need to recognize when such agreements no longer work.

"Even our European friends sometimes say we're not acting in the free world's interest. This



Pompeo

is just plain wrong," Pompeo said.

"We are acting to preserve, protect and advance an open, just, transparent and free world of sovereign states."

This project will require, actual, not pretend, restoration of the liberal order among nations."

Pompeo also planned to urge NATO allies to take a tougher stance against Russia after last week's attack on Ukrainian vessels.

In talks with allies and Ukrainian officials at NATO headquarters, Pompeo planned to call on Europeans to "show leadership in tackling a problem that's in Europe's own backyard," a senior State Department official told reporters Monday en route to Brussels, according to an official transcript.

After an afternoon meeting of alliance foreign ministers and Ukrainian officials, no new NATO countermeasures were announced in response to Russia's attack on three Ukrainian ships in the Sea of Azov.

Stoltenberg said allies were united in condemning Russia's actions, have built up in the Black Sea region over several years and will assess whether more needs to be done going forward.

"We will continue to assess our presence in the region," Stoltenberg said.

So far, it is unclear what the U.S. and NATO could do in response to Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine and around the Black Sea, but the U.S. official suggested that actions are in the works.

For its part, the U.S. has provided lethal military aid to Ukraine during the past year. In Brussels, the U.S. could ask allies to take similar action.

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MILITARY

City settles case against 'Norfolk 4'

By ALAN SUDERMAN
AND ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The city of Norfolk has agreed to pay \$4.9 million to four former sailors who were wrongly convicted of a woman's rape and murder based on intimidating police interrogations. A copy of the settlement agreement for the "Norfolk Four" was obtained by The Associated Press.

The state also has agreed to pay \$3.5 million.

The payments close out a decades-long case that drew widespread attention as the men's innocence claims were backed by dozens of former FBI agents, prosecutors and crime novelist John Grisham.

"These guys can now put all this behind them and try to recoup their lives," said Tony Troy, a lawyer who represented one of the sailors.

The men — Eric Wilson, Daniel Williams, Joseph Dick and Derek Tie — were pardoned by then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe last year in the 1997 rape and murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko.

Moore-Bosko's husband found her stabbed and strangled body in their apartment in July of that year after returning from a week at sea.

Williams, who lived in the same building, was quickly identified as a suspect because a neighbor told police he had a crush on the victim. Williams admitted to her rape and murder — the first of a series of confessions that the men, then sailors at the Naval Base in Norfolk, say were forced by police.

DNA evidence matched only one person: Omar Ballard, the fifth man convicted in the case. Ballard, who pleaded guilty in 2000, acknowledged he was solicited and is serving a life sentence.

The Norfolk Four have said they cracked after they were threatened with the death penalty and repeatedly called liars. One of the men recalled a detective shoving him into a cooler and showing him a picture of Moore-Bosko's bloody body. The confessions

conflicted with one another. Ballard's account was the only one containing information matching the crime scene.

The detective who questioned them, Robert Glenn Ford, was convicted in 2011 of extortion and lying to the FBI in unrelated cases.

In vacating some of the Norfolk Four's convictions, a federal judge once declared that "no sane human being" could find them guilty.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam approved legislation earlier this year that gives the men \$3.5 million in state funds contingent on them resolving claims against the city.

Sen. Scott Surovell, a sponsor of the legislation, said he was pleased that the city agreed to settle rather than fight the men.

"Justice was long overdue for these four. What happened to them was outrageous and undermines faith in our criminal justice system," he said. "Hopefully, this settlement will help ensure this never happens again."

The settlement with the city was finalized a month ago but had not been previously made public. A city spokesman referred questions to City Attorney Bernard Pishko, who did not immediately return requests for comment.

The false conviction took a heavy toll on the four men, including lengthy prison terms and years as registered sex offenders.

Wilson, who was wrongly convicted of rape, said it took an attorney and \$10,000 to persuade a board to grant him an electrician's license and that he was blocked from working on certain properties, such as schools, and barred from city parks.

He also said his son was run out of his Cub Scout troop because other parents didn't want Wilson around.

Steve Northup, an attorney for Wilson, called the city's payout "generous."

"It doesn't restore the 20 years of his life that Eric lost ... but nevertheless, it helps, and we're pleased and our clients are pleased with the compensation we were able to secure for them," he said.

Naval Academy board hears about sea-level rise

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The sea level in Annapolis is predicted to rise between 0.6 and 3.6 feet by 2050, a U.S. Naval Academy oceanography professor said Monday in a briefing about the advisory council helping the river-side academy make decisions on flooded-related matters.

Professor Gina Henderson told the academy's Board of Visitors that a road on the academy's grounds has been closed 38 times so far this year because of flooding, the most it has been closed since the academy has kept track.

The board, which includes mem-

bers of Congress, acts like a board of trustees at a civilian college.

"This nuisance flooding is only increasing, and it does affect operations here on the Yard," Henderson said.

Henderson, who is the co-chairwoman of the academy's Sea Level Rise Advisory Council, said the panel has been working to leverage expertise at the academy to help prepare for future flooding from sea-level rise. The council was formed in 2015 to help plan.

From The Associated Press



KORY ALSBERY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Field training exercise

Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Alex Kaye, assigned to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit, observes an iRobot 310 small unmanned ground vehicle simulating setting a charge on a training drone for a field training exercise at Naval Base Guam on Tuesday.

Botswana to host 2019 conference

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — U.S. Army Africa's premier event, a conference of Africa's army chiefs, will be held next year in Botswana, one of the continent's most stable democracies.

Now in its seventh year, the African Land Forces Summit will be held in June in the southern African nation's capital of Gaborone.

The conference is attended by land force chiefs from across Africa with the aim of discussing best practices for counterterrorism, humanitarian relief and other shared challenges.

Last year, some 40 African officials attended, as did representatives from allied nations in Europe and South America.

The conference comes at a time when U.S. Africa Command, USARAF's higher command, is planning cuts in special operations troops and missions in Africa as the U.S. defense posture has shifted from fighting terrorism to threats posed by Russia and China.

According to the plan, the roughly 1,200 special operations troops on missions in Africa would be cut by 25 percent over 18 months and 50 percent over three years, The New York Times reported in August.

The conference, which planners say brings more than \$1 billion to hosting countries, is seen as elevating their prestige.

Countries are chosen based on several factors. "Location is selected based on current and desired U.S. relations and interests in the region ... to include future and ongoing security cooperation activities," USARAF spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon said in an email.

Additional considerations include the host nation's military capacity, as well as security, transportation and conference space, Dillon said.

This year the conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria, the most populous and powerful country in West Africa, which has for years been engaged in a battle against Boko Haram, the Islamist insurgents that have terrorized the Lake Chad region.

The Botswana Defense Force is regarded as highly professional. Its missions include anti-poaching, disaster response and peacekeeping.

It is rated as the least corrupt country in Africa by Transparency International, and the United Nations ranks it among the top countries in Africa in terms of human development measures.

However, it also has significant challenges. Botswana has the third-highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world, at about 22 percent.

Botswana was also the first country to condemn President Donald Trump's reported slur of African nations in January as "shithole countries."

"The government of Botswana is wondering why President Trump must use this descriptor and derogatory word when talking about countries with whom the U.S. has had cordial and mutually beneficial bilateral relations for so many years," Botswana said in a statement at the time. The statement added that "we view the utterances by the current American President as highly irresponsible, reprehensible and racist."

Trump later denied using the phrase during a meeting with lawmakers on immigration, though Democrats and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, of Arizona, insisted that he did.

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MILITARY

Frustration boils over at hearing on Afghanistan

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Echoing recent remarks from a top U.S. general, several senators expressed frustration Tuesday that the war in Afghanistan, now in its 18th year, remains a stalemate for U.S. forces.

"We've been at it 17 years; 17 years is a long time," a visibly frustrated Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. "What are we doing differently when it comes to the Afghan security forces that we haven't done for 17 years while being focused on this?"

The comments were part of a hearing for nominees to lead Central Command and Special Operations Command, which recently suffered a rash of senior commander deaths. Last week, two Green Berets and an Air Force combat controller died in a blast that struck a convoy of U.S. and Afghan forces in central Afghanistan. On Sunday, an Army infantryman died of

his wounds from that same explosion in a hospital in Germany.

Army Lt. Gen. Richard Clarke, nominee for the S.O.C.M. job, said the Taliban has 60,000 fighters, a much higher number than has been estimated by the military in the past. Clarke had initially testified the Taliban was 20,000 strong and corrected himself during Tuesday's hearing.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told an audience last month during a security conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that Afghanistan's status has not changed much from last year, when it was at a "stalemate." The concerns come more than a year into President Donald Trump's new Afghanistan strategy to boost U.S. forces there.

"The stalemate is disappointing," Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who was at the Halifax meeting,

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., nominee for the CENTCOM job, agreed Tuesday with Dunford that Afghanistan remains at a stalemate, but contends

new efforts are now in play.

In response to Peters' question, McKenzie noted he and his son, Kenneth Ray McKenzie, a Naval Academy graduate who served as a Marine Corps infantry officer and now works in the private sector, were both deployed twice to Afghanistan.

'We've been at it 17 years; 17 years is a long time.'

Sen. Gary Peters
D-Mich.

Afghan Security Forces. They are doing the fighting. Americans are scared at risk, and as we saw tragically last week, Americans are still going to go into harm's way, and some of them may die. But we are no longer doing the fighting. They are doing the fighting. They are doing it imperfectly, but they are doing it with our assistance."

McKenzie said a political settlement, which could entail peace talks with the Taliban, is a key new strategy in Afghanistan. He also warned the United States should not withdraw from the country precipitously — as it has done before — since the Afghan Security Forces are not yet able to defend themselves. And it's not clear that what will happen, either, McKenzie said.

"I don't know how long it will take," he said. "I do know that we're working it very hard. I do know that they are making improvements. I do know that today it would be very difficult for them to survive without our and our coalition partners' assistance. And we should remember that NATO and other nations are with us on the ground in Afghanistan."

McKenzie, who would replace outgoing Gen. Joseph Votel at CENTCOM, acknowledged the recent deaths of several soldiers in Afghanistan and the passing of Vice Adm. Scott Stearney, who was found dead in his quarters Saturday in Bahrain. No foul

play is suspected in the death of Stearney.

"CENTCOM remains a dangerous, dangerous theater of war, and we have seen the cost as recently as last week," McKenzie said. "I am certainly mindful of the burden we have borne in the past and, unfortunately, we will continue to bear."

SOCOM nominee Clarke, echoed McKenzie's remarks Tuesday, detailing the global threats that remain a concern for the U.S. military. Clarke is slated to replace outgoing Army Gen. Raymond Thomas.

"Our world continues to evolve and increase in complexity while violent extremism persists, challenging regional stability and threatening our interests," Clarke said. This, as "near-peer competitors grow in capability and intent to contest our vital national interests."

Stars and Stripes reporters Corey Dickstein and Chad Garland contributed to this report. grisales.claudia@stripes.com [Twitter: @cgrisales](https://twitter.com/cgrisales)

Army Ranger dog killed in Afghanistan saved soldiers' lives

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. military working dog was killed during a recent clash in Afghanistan in which an American soldier also died, military officials confirmed Tuesday after the dog's official biography began circulating on social media.

The dog, named Maiko, and Sgt. Leandro A.S. Jasso — who was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment's 2nd Battalion and whose death was previously reported — were fatally wounded during a raid against al-Qaida militants in southern Nimruz province on Nov. 24, military officials said. Jasso was not Maiko's handler.

The 7-year-old dog was leading Rangers into a compound when at least one militant fired at him, revealing the militant's position, which the Rangers then targeted, according to a biography of the dog.

"The actions of Maiko directly saved the life of his handler... and other Rangers involved during the clearance," the biography says.

A spokesman for the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning,

Ga., said they were still trying to determine who released the unauthorized biography for the multipurpose canine, but said it was accurate.

The biography and what purported to be a photo of the Dutch-born dog were first published by the popular Facebook page U.S. Army WTF Moments. A representative of the site declined to say how they had gotten the materials.

Jasso died from injuries sustained during the same operation. Preliminary reports indicated his death was caused by Afghan forces who accidentally shot him during a close-quarter firefight against "one of multiple barricaded al-Qaida shooters," the military said in a statement last week.

Like many of his human counterparts, Maiko had served multiple tours in Afghanistan — six in total — and conducted over 50 Ranger-led raids, the biography says. He had the most training and combat experience of any dog with the battalion at the time of his death.

"Retired and assured, Maiko never backed down from a fight with the enemy, training or combat,"



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF MORGAN IN J1/Twitter

Along with Sgt. Leandro A.S. Jasso, multipurpose canine Maiko was killed in action on Nov. 24 in Afghanistan.

the biography says. "He embodied what it means to be a Ranger." Hundreds of dogs have been used to support troops in Afghanistan since the U.S. arrived in 2001

to oust the Taliban from power. They are trained for a variety of tasks, including detecting explosives and apprehending combatants. About 1,600 dogs are either in the field or helping veterans, the military has said.

While many dogs are trained for a specific task, multipurpose canines like Maiko are highly skilled and must undergo a rigorous selection process, like the Rangers they assist. Maiko had been trained in patrolling, tracking, bomb detection and apprehension functions and had used these skills on several occasions, including clearing buildings.

Maiko, who had worked with five Ranger handlers over his career, was remembered for his "rock-solid consistency" and forgiving nature.

There was not a day that passed where he was not 100 percent committed to giving everything he had, regardless of how hot it was, how long the [operation] was or how many buildings needed to be cleared," the biography says.

The document described the local devastation, but the results of Maiko's willingness to operate without regard for his own

well-being were tangible.

"It is an empty kennel, husbands coming home to their wives, kids getting to see their fathers once more and Rangers getting to live to fight another day," it says.

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Recruit: Backlog of green-card holders described by some as 'untenable'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Air Force Lt. Col. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the services will begin sending the recruits to training this week. They will be trained in a variety of roles and the services will have to consider factors such as their needs and prospective recruits' preferences.

The injunction eases pressure on a group of prospective troops that the Pentagon has long recruited, putting self-interest in some cases, a chance at U.S. citizen-

ship. About 18,000 U.S. troops were green-card holders at the beginning of the Trump administration, and about 5,000 joined the military each year before the stricter policy, Pentagon officials have said.

Gleason told Stars and Stripes that there are 20,000 non-U.S. citizens on active duty.

Gleason also clarified that the directive does not impact members of the Military Accessions Vital to National Interest, or MAVNI, program, which was a specific pro-

gram for non-citizens in the U.S. on student or work visas who were eligible for military services because of their language or medical skills and were promised a fast-track to citizenship. MAVNI recruits are still facing a lengthy backlog for enhanced background security checks instituted in late 2016.

Some military officials have raised concerns internally that the growing backlog of green-card holders could present problems for a military already in need of

new troops. The directive, which was obtained by The Washington Post, was issued two days after a reporter began asking military officials last week about the glut of potential recruits waiting to train and whether it was complying with the injunction.

The green-card holders originate from many countries with which the United States has friendly relations, with lawful permanent residents from the Philippines making up the largest number.

WAR ON TERRORISM

US envoy in Pakistan for talks about Taliban

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The U.S. special envoy tasked with finding a negotiated end to the war in Afghanistan met with Pakistan's foreign secretary, security and army officials Tuesday to discuss how to bring the Taliban to peace talks, officials said.

The visit by Zalmay Khalilzad came a day after President Donald Trump wrote a letter to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, seeking his cooperation. Khalilzad was also expected to meet with Khan.

The U.S. Embassy did not share any details about the talks, and Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mohammad Faisal, said only that the two sides held detailed discussions on peace and a political settlement in neighboring Afghanistan.

It was unclear how long Khalilzad would stay in Pakistan.

According to the State Department, the U.S. special envoy will also travel to Afghanistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in stepped-up efforts to find a peaceful end to the Afghan War.

Washington and Kabul have long accused Islamabad of turning a blind eye to the Afghan Taliban, whose leadership is based in Pakistan. Islamabad has always denied the allegations, pointing to its efforts to combat homegrown extremists who have carried out hundreds of attacks inside Pakistan.

On Monday, Khan told reporters that his government will do whatever is possible to ensure peace in Afghanistan.

Insurgents seem to be in no hurry for peace

The Washington Post

KABUL — Everyone, it seems, is pushing for peace in Afghanistan these days.

President Donald Trump's special envoy is racing around the region trying to drum up support for talks with the insurgent Taliban. The Russians, eager to get into the act, have hosted a conference on the issue. The Pakistanis, long accused of abetting the insurgents, insist they want to help end the war. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani hopes to win re-election in April as the man who brought peace to his country after 17 years.

The Taliban, however, seems

to be in no hurry at all.

Last week, when Ghani laid out his upbeat vision of a "road map" to peace at a conference in Geneva, the response from the insurgents was scathing. They dismissed his government as a "powerless" foreign puppet and any discussion with its officials as a "waste of time." They said they were waging a holy war against American "invaders" and would negotiate only with them.

The insurgents reacted with the same dismissive scorn several days ago when U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told a conference in California that the Trump administration wanted to solve the conflict without agree-

ing to withdraw troops.

"The valiant Afghan Muslim nation is absolutely determined to force the occupying American forces out of Afghanistan," Taliban officials declared in an online message. "We will not tire." The option of whether to withdraw troops, the group added, will not be "chosen by American generals."

The triumphalist tone of these broadsides was not new. But coupled with the insurgents' intensifying campaign of violence since a brief truce in June, it seemed to signal a hardening resistance to negotiations, rather than a boastful opening gambit.

Ghani orders investigation into alleged abuse of female athletes

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday ordered an investigation after the Guardian reported that members of the national women's soccer team were sexually and physically abused by men from the country's football federation.

The report in the British newspaper Friday cited senior figures associated with the team as saying the abuse took place at the federation's headquarters in Kabul and at a training camp in Jordan last February.

The Guardian also cited Khalida Popal, a former head of women's soccer in the Afghanistan Football Federation who was

forced to flee the country in 2016 and seek asylum in Denmark, as saying that her own investigation uncovered physical and sexual abuse, death threats and rape.

Ghani described the report as "shocking to all Afghans," the presidential palace said. On Monday night, he met with officials from the Afghan National Olympic Committee, sportsmen and sportswomen, and pledged authorities would "conduct a thorough investigation into this."

Attorney General Farid Hamedipromised a transparent probe.

"I would like to assert in front of our athletes, the president and people of Afghanistan that we will proceed with this investigation

transparently, justly and comprehensively," said Hamedip.

Sayed Alireza Aqazada, AFF's secretary-general, denied the allegations in the Guardian report, saying they were "all baseless and untrue." Hafizullah Wai Rahimi, president of Afghanistan's Olympic committee, told local media that such allegations were not new and that there had been similar complaints in the past.

"Even if mere allegations (of abuse) cause our people to stop sending their sons and daughters to sports, we need to act immediately," said Ghani. "We have to have a framework in place to mitigate such incidents in our sports."

Danish sportswear brand Hum-



FABRICE COFFRINI, POOL/AP

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, shown last week at a United Nations conference in Geneva, has ordered an investigation into the reported abuse of members of the national women's soccer team.

mel canceled its sponsorship of the Afghan team last month, calling for new leadership of the soccer federation. It said the decision was made after "allegations of se-

vere mental, physical and sexual abuse as well as documentation of new contracts stripping female players of basic human rights was presented to the company."

UN aid chief: Yemen talks not an 'easy or rapid process'

Associated Press

GENEVA — The U.N. humanitarian aid chief says he doesn't expect an "easy or rapid process" in peace talks set to begin later this week aimed at ending Yemen's devastating civil war.

Mark Lowcock, head of the world body's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, spoke to The Associated Press on Monday after laying out the organization's 2019 humanitarian appeal.

OCHA says \$21.9 billion is needed next year for food, shelter, health care, education, protection and other assistance worldwide. It predicts nearly 132 million people in 42 countries will need assistance.

The worst humanitarian crisis is in Yemen, where the government and a Saudi-led coalition have been locked in a largely stalemated war with the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels since March 2015. The fighting has claimed tens of thousands of lives and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

Lowcock said the "onus" in the peace talks is on Yemen's government and the

Houthi rebels to "take this seriously and act in a responsible way."

The two sides are set to meet later this week following a series of confidence-

It's time for world leaders to listen to their constituents and help end the unmitigated suffering of the Yemeni people.'

David Miliband
International Rescue
Committee president

proved by the Houthis.

Houthi delegates flew to Stockholm from Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa, on

Tuesday. Other rebel delegates were expected to travel to Sweden from Oman on Wednesday. The U.N. says both sides have agreed to attend the talks.

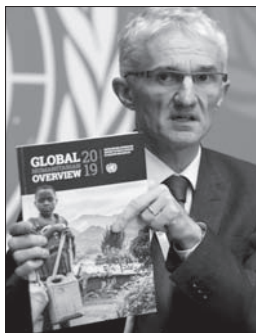
David Miliband, president of the International Rescue Committee, on Tuesday urged the U.S. and Britain to use their influence as military supporters of the Saudi-led coalition to "encourage meaningful dialogue in these talks."

"It's time for world leaders to listen to their constituents and help end the unmitigated suffering of the Yemeni people," he said in a statement.

A survey commissioned by the IRC found that 75 percent of Americans oppose U.S. weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, a leading member of the coalition.

The YouGov survey showed that 82 percent believe Congress should vote to end or decrease arms sales to the two Gulf Arab countries.

YouGov surveyed 1,168 respondents online from Nov. 7 to Nov. 9. The poll had a margin of error of 3.3 percent, the IRC said.



SAUVALORE DI NOLFI, KEYSTONE/AP

Mark Lowcock, U.N. under-secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs, holds a report about the organization's 2019 humanitarian appeal during a press conference in Geneva on Tuesday.

MILITARY

VA reverses course on GI Bill payments

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After Department of Veterans Affairs officials admitted the agency had no plans to retroactively pay some student veterans who are likely to receive incorrect housing stipends during the next year, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie reversed course, saying every underpaid GI Bill recipient will get what they are due.

The statement from Wilkie on Thursday night was met with skepticism from lawmakers, but as of Monday, some Republican lawmakers and veterans groups had spoken to the VA and believed all veterans would get paid. Some Democrats remained doubtful.

The incorrect payments that could be made during the next year are a result of setbacks in implementing a new "Forever" GI Bill — a major expansion of veterans' education benefits that Congress passed last year.

Part of the new GI Bill changed how veterans' housing allowances are calculated — they're now supposed to be based on where veterans take classes, rather than defaulting to their school's main campus. The change was supposed to have been made by Aug. 1, but information technology problems have now set back implementation to Dec. 1, 2019.

The affected veterans should be getting paid larger housing stipends because their location has a higher cost of living than where their school is based. For example, a student attending a University of Pennsylvania campus in San Francisco will receive a Philadelphia rate for their housing allowances during the next year rather than the San Francisco rate, which would be much higher.

"We did talk to the VA, and they're doing what we've asked," said Tanya Ang, director of policy and outreach for Veterans Education Success, a nonprofit that advocates for education programs for veterans. "That is, to make sure students who made decisions to go to a certain campus based on the housing allowance they thought they were going to get would indeed get that money."

But that isn't the VA's position Thursday at a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing, at which Undersecretary of Benefits Paul Lawrence reluctantly acknowledged the VA didn't have plans to pay that group of veterans.

The reasoning, Lawrence said, was the burden to schools and the amount of claims it could add to the VA workload. It remains unknown how many veterans could be affected and how much money they might be owed.

"We also have to think about the broad veteran population and determine whether it yields any benefits or just work," Lawrence said.

Later Thursday, Wilkie issued a statement overriding Lawrence's comments.

"We will work with lawmakers

to ensure that — once VA is in a position to process education claims in accordance with the new law — each and every beneficiary will receive retroactively the exact benefits to which they are entitled under that law," he said.

A spokeswoman for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs described the statement as "unambiguous." Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the committee chairman who pressed Lawrence on the issue Thursday, said Wilkie was "doing right by veterans."

"I am encouraged to know that our student veterans will receive what they earned, despite the burden it may place on VA to do so," Roe said in the statement.

Student Veterans of America, which has been monitoring problems with the GI Bill this semester, believes Wilkie's statement clears up the confusion.

SVA and Veterans Education Success now have questions, though, about how the VA will handle the workload next December. This semester, thousands of veterans experienced delays in receiving their monthly housing stipends while the VA worked to fix IT errors.

"There are still a couple of outstanding questions on the specifics of the new path forward, which should be answered as VA provides more details on how they will proceed," Lauren Augustine, SVA vice president of government affairs, said in a statement. "The most important being what resources, either money or manpower, does VA need to process these retroactive payments effectively?"

Confusion last week about the retroactive payments prompted a barrage of letters from angry lawmakers, insisting the VA reimburse or underpaid veterans. Even with Wilkie's statement Thursday, some of those lawmakers, particularly Democrats, still want answers.

Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., the ranking Democrat on the House VA committee, wasn't satisfied with the statement, said Griffin Anderson, his communications director. Anderson noted the VA hadn't been clear previously about who would get paid, and Lawrence acknowledged having no plans to reimburse some veterans only after the question had been asked repeatedly by multiple lawmakers.

"The constant obfuscation calls the legitimacy of Wilkie's statement into question," Anderson said. "House Democrats want Secretary Wilkie to say loud and clear that VA will make GI Bill beneficiaries under Section 107 of the Forever GI Bill whole." Section 107 is the portion of the new GI Bill that changes calculations for veterans' housing allowances.

House Democrats, led by Walz and Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., sent a letter to Wilkie on Friday seeking straightforward answers. They asked for a response by Dec. 14.

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GEORGE H.W. BUSH 1924-2018

Tribute: 41st president remembered for 'his service to country'

FROM FRONT PAGE

The tribute to Bush, who died Friday in Houston, drew together congressional leaders, White House officials, other Washington politicians, family and friends for the beginning of a weeklong set of events to honor the former president.

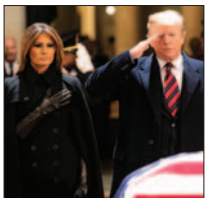
"Throughout his life of service, President Bush personified grace. His character was second to none," said outgoing House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "He was the first president I had the chance to vote for. And he was the first president to teach me that in a Democracy sometimes you fall short. And that how you handle that is just as important as how you win."

Vice President Mike Pence was also among the elected officials in attendance at the lying in state ceremony and spoke in tribute to Bush's legacy, which stretched beyond politics.

"He was a good man ... who was devoted to his wife and family," Pence said of Bush, whose wife, former first lady Barbara Bush, died in April.

Some speakers focused on Bush's connection to the military, from leading America into the Gulf War in 1990 to his own service in World War II and his ability to connect with troops in the years that followed.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., talked of Bush's days as a Navy pilot when on Sept. 2, 1944, the then-20-year-old lieutenant saw his plane hit on a bombing mission. Through the



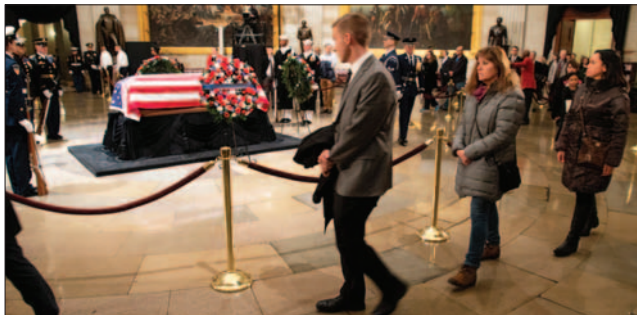
President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump pay their respects.

fire and smoke, Bush remained steady at the controls and continued to pilot the plane. Eventually, he was forced to bail out of the aircraft and drifted in a raft for four hours in waters of the Pacific Ocean until he was rescued.

That steady resolve fueled his future leadership throughout various government posts and as commander in chief, McConnell said.

"George Bush was just a teenager when he volunteered for military service and became the Navy's youngest aviator," he said. "With his even temperament and hard-won expertise, George Herbert Walker Bush steered this country as straight as he steered that airplane. He kept us flying high and challenged us to fly higher still."

Among Bush family members in attendance for Monday's ceremony were son and former 43rd President George W. Bush with his



People pay their respects to former President George H.W. Bush in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on Monday night.

wife and former first lady Laura, and son, former Florida Gov. and one-time presidential candidate Jeb Bush.

They led a procession at the closing of the ceremony encircling the casket for the late president. They did not speak during the ceremony.

Later Monday night, President Donald Trump, who has been critical of the Bush family, and first lady Melania Trump paid their respects to Bush at the Capitol separate from the official ceremony.

Trump arrived in the midst of the public visitation hours, halting the line for a few minutes as he and his wife visited the Capitol Rotunda.

Public visitation hours began at 7:30 p.m. and were slated to continue until Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. A funeral service is slated for Bush at Washington National Cathedral on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

The Deaneuses were determined to visit the late president Monday because they hold high respect for the office, but particularly be-

cause they're "very huge believers" in the Bushes, said Wanda Deans, 67.

"They've always been very special to us," she said. "They were both absolutely awesome ... and very much supported the military."

That sentiment was echoed by several military veterans and active servicemembers who visited the Capitol on Monday.

"It's an honor to participate in things like this, to show our respect for presidents of the past," said Navy Chief Ronald Ratliff, 44, who works at the Capitol. "It was [Bush's] kindness that stands out to me."

Richard Whelan, 56, a retired Navy sailor from Brooklyn, N.Y., happened to be visiting family in Virginia when he decided Monday to come to the Capitol.

"I served in Desert Storm ... I'm here out of respect," Whelan said. Bush is remembered for "his modesty ... his service to country and encouraging people to serve." Marine Corps Sgt. Tucker

Gourneau, 31, from Texas, was drawn to the Capitol on Monday for similar reasons.

"His military service and time as a Navy pilot" stand out, Gourneau said. And "he played a tremendous role in the end of the Cold War."

Timothy and Tracy Hall drove for more than four hours Monday from Durham, N.C., with their three young sons, Peter, Stephen and Fritz. Retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hall, 54, and Tracy, 49, home-school their sons and saw the trip as a historic learning opportunity for their children.

"I served under both Bushes, which is pretty cool," said Timothy Hall, who served during the Gulf War and then in Afghanistan.

"President Bush was such a wonderful statesman," Tracy Hall said. "He worked with everybody."

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Emotional Bush cartoon went viral, touching even his family

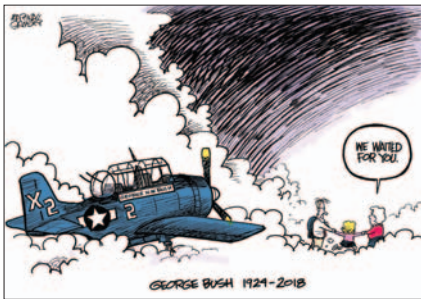
By MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

Marshall Ramsey was awakened by his wife late Friday night with the news: President George H.W. Bush had just died. Right away, Ramsey thought back to his idea.

When former first lady Barbara Bush died in April, Ramsey — the editorial cartoonist for the Mississippi Clarion Ledger — created a memorial illustration that went viral. Days later, when her husband of 73 years became ill, Ramsey began thinking about a companion cartoon to salute the former president.

"But he's tough as nails and bounced back," Ramsey told The Washington Post. "So I just filed the idea away."

Until Friday night, when Ramsey learned the 41st president had died at age 94, according to Bush spokesman Jim McGrath. "I drew it as quickly as I could and then posted" it on social media, Ramsey said of the tribute. "It seems like I've [drawn] so many obituary cartoons this year that I've been cruel. But since the last one was so well-received



Marshall Ramsey's cartoon

by the Bush family and by parents who had lost children, I wanted to make sure this one was right."

This one was indeed right, based on swift public embrace of the work, which readers called "beautiful" and "touching." The tribute cartoon in April pictured Barbara Bush in heaven, being re-

united with her daughter Pauline Robinson "Robin" Bush, who died of leukemia in 1953. The Bush parents had called Robin's death, at age 3, their greatest sorrow.

In the new cartoon, George H.W. Bush, the former Navy pilot and World War II hero, has flown a TBM Avenger to the pearly

gates to be reunited with wife and daughter.

"I consider this cartoon and the Barbara Bush cartoon to be bookends," said Ramsey, who was humbled by the praise that the cartoon drew — especially that of Jenna Bush Hager, the Bushes' granddaughter.

"This brought me such comfort this morning," Hager wrote Saturday on Facebook, with a shared image of the cartoon. "I had the opportunity to talk with my grandpa about the afterlife."

"This is what he said: He answered without any hesitation. 'Yes, I think about it. I used to be afraid. I used to be scared of dying. I used to worry about death. But now in some ways I look forward to it. And I started crying. I managed to choke out, 'Well, why? What do you look forward to?' And he said, 'Well, when I die, I'm going to be reunited with these people that I've lost.'"

When Hager asked her grandfather what he hoped to see when reunited, she wrote that he replied, "I hope I see Robin, and I hope I see" Barbara.

The father president added, she wrote, that he hoped that upon

this reunion, Robin would still be age 3. "The little girl he held tightly: who spoke the phrase I have heard Gampy repeat for my entire life, forever knitting Robin's voice into the tightly woven fabric of our family. 'I love you more than tongue can tell.'"

Hager's Facebook update has been shared more than 40,000 times and has received more than 100,000 responses.

"To read what Jenna wrote — let's just say I'm honored beyond words," Ramsey told The Post. "Let's put politics aside for a moment. The Bush family is remarkably kind and gracious."

Ramsey said about his cartoon honoring George H.W. Bush: "I wanted to incorporate his service to our country because, love or hate him, he served our country in about every capacity."

Three decades later, Ramsey appreciates the responses from such figures as Hager and McGrath.

"But I also just got an email from a mother who shared her conversation with her dying 5-year-old about them reuniting in heaven," Ramsey said. "Honestly, that moved me to tears."

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NATION

Military could face new demands in shutdown

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The military might have to pick up the slack if a spat over President Donald Trump's demands for border wall funding forces a partial government shutdown later this month.

With the military funded into late 2019, the Defense Department might have to fill in the gaps for agencies that aren't, such as the Department of Homeland Security, which includes the Transportation Security Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Defense Department, along with 75 percent of the government, saw its fiscal year 2019 budget approved earlier this year. But the remaining agencies are still awaiting approval for their spending plans.

"The DHS has to scale back its activities on the border, DOD might have to step up its activities," said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies. For example, "If for some reason TSA had to reduce its operation ... you could imagine the military being ordered to support or conduct security at airports."

A possible, partial shutdown slated for Friday could be delayed as a result of new news that Trump critics have said.

CIA head set to brief senators on Khassoggi

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—CIA Director Gina Haspel is expected to brief Senate leaders on the slaying of Saudi journalist Jamal Khassoggi as senators weigh their next steps in possibly punishing the longtime Middle East ally over the killing.

The CIA director is set Tuesday to meet Republican and Democratic Senate leaders, as well as the chairmen and ranking senators on the key national security committees. The visit was confirmed by a person familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private session.

Sensors from both parties were upset that Haspel was not part of a recent closed-door session with top administration officials about Khassoggi's killing and the U.S. response. The briefing included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Khassoggi was killed in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul two months ago. The journalist, who had lived for a time in the U.S. and worked for The Washington

Post, said he would approve a plan to push the funding deadline to Dec. 21 as a result of a series of memorials honoring Bush, who died Friday.

House lawmakers introduced the two-week measure Monday, and the legislation was poised to win approval this week. However, Trump did not let up Tuesday on his demands for \$5 billion in funding for the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

"Get it done!" Trump tweeted Tuesday morning, in addition to dubious claims that the wall would pay for itself or blaming massive U.S. financial losses on illegal immigration.

This isn't the first time that Trump has threatened a shutdown over massive funding for a border wall, but it's been to no avail in past efforts.

As a result, Cancian and other experts suggest the odds are low for a partial shutdown because both parties fear backlash from the public with such a move.

"He threatens it every year," Cancian said of Trump's shutdown threats. So, "odds seem to be relatively low."

Other pundits are also betting against such a move, agreeing the political price remains too high. And a previous appropriations measure already included \$1.6 billion in border security funding that has yet to be spent, some Trump critics have said.

"We are dealing with Donald

Trump, who is emotional and changeable in his intentions and actions. ... I would say it's less than likely, but certainly possible," said Ben Friedman, a fellow for Defense Priorities, a right-leaning Washington think tank. "It sure seems like a political loser for the president."

Molly Reynolds, a governance studies fellow at the Brookings Institution, a liberal-leaning Washington think tank, also sees a small chance for a partial shutdown.

"I continue to think that a shutdown is relatively unlikely. I expect them to reach some sort of deal," Reynolds said. But "if there is a partial shutdown, the military will be largely unaffected."

Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues, agreed that if there is a shutdown, it could have no impact on the military.

"I do recall an earlier shutdown where DOD had the appropriation bill passed, and other government agencies did not, and it was business as usual for DOD," he said.

Friedman said if there is an impact on the military, it will depend on how long the shutdown lasts. The longer it is, the more likely it could affect servicemembers who might be assigned to fill gaps for other departments. "If Cancian suggested one scenario could be the Defense Department

taking on functions for Homeland Security, with servicemembers having their authorities expanded in their deployment along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I think the three big areas would be border patrol, ICE and TSA," he said. "If for some reason they could not operate, or could not fully operate, the military may be ordered in as a stopgap."

That could include functions involving temporary detention and riot control efforts.

"DOD might have to step in and implement some of those authorities [that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was given but not yet exercised]," Cancian said.

For TSA, the military could have to revisit duties that they provided following the 9/11 attacks, such as airport security.

It's also possible that these agencies will have enough miscommunications to get through a short shutdown, thus not requiring additional military support, Cancian noted. For example, frequent flyer programs such as TSA PreCheck give that agency additional funds that could be used in a similar way.

"TSA may have enough money to get through a few days," he said. "The rules here are very complicated because if an agency has an independent source of money, it can use that money to keep operations for at least a limited period of time."

In September, a fiscal year

2019 spending package of more than \$850 billion to fund defense, labor, health and human services and other related agencies was passed into law. That same month, a smaller appropriations measure funding veterans affairs, military construction and other efforts was also approved.

The Defense Department "is OK as the [fiscal year] 2019 DOD appropriations bill ... became public law" when Trump signed the legislation Sept. 28, 2018, said Sherbo. "Five of the 12 annual [fiscal year] 2019 appropriations bills are public law as of today," including the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Energy, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

The larger defense measure, H.R. 6157, also included temporary appropriations funding, known as a continuing resolution, for the remaining agencies still lacking funding for the 2019 fiscal year, which started Oct. 1. The continuing resolution funded agencies until Dec. 7.

Now, in addition to Homeland Security, the departments of Justice, State, Commerce, Agriculture and Financial Services are among the agencies at risk of closure, said Sherbo, a former Pentagon official.

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TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

CIA Director Gina Haspel is set to brief Senate leaders on the slaying of Saudi journalist Jamal Khassoggi in Turkey.

Post, had been critical of the Saudi regime. He was killed in what U.S. officials have described as an elaborate plot as he visited the consulate for marriage paperwork.

U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, must have at least known of the plot, but President Donald Trump has equivocated over who was to blame. Echoing Trump's public comments on the killing, Pompeo said after last week's briefing with senators that there was "no direct reporting" connecting the crown prince to the murder.

Questioned about Haspel's absence from last week's briefing, a CIA spokesman said that the director had already briefed congressional leaders on Khassoggi and that no one was keeping her away.

Trump complains about cost of 'uncontrollable' arms race

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump complained Monday about how much the U.S. spends on weapons in an "uncontrollable" arms race with Russia and China, though he vastly overstated how much is spent on actual weapons, even under a budget his administration has increased.

The president said in a tweet that the U.S. has spent \$716 billion this year, an amount he called "Crazy." He said he expects to discuss the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I am certain that, at some time in the future, President Xi and I, together with President Putin of Russia, will start talking about a meaningful halt to what has become a major and uncontrollable Arms Race," he said on Twitter.

His statement appeared to confuse the total Defense Department budget with America's investment in the nation's missile defense systems and the strain on nuclear weapons usually associated with the arms race.

The Pentagon's budget for 2019 totals about \$716 billion, but that includes everything from health care and pay for servicemembers to the costs of the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The

arms race is just a fraction of that amount, totaling about \$10 billion this year for a wide range of missile defense and nuclear weapons programs.

It was unclear what prompted the tweet. Trump was at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina with both leaders on Friday and Saturday, but missed meetings with Putin in Argentina over Russia's seizure of Ukrainian naval ships near Crimea.

Trump's comment on Twitter was also a change of tone when it comes to the U.S. military budget. He has previously said the Pentagon budget is too big and that the U.S. is spending too much on defense.

Until recently, the president has bragged about his increase in military spending, railing about previous administrations' neglect of America's armed forces. He has boasted that his administration is "rebuilding our military." He has occasionally complained about specific programs such as Air Force One and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, but his criticism was leveled at the defense contractors and focused on demanding savings.

He has been far more support-

ive of the broader defense increases, and specifically has endorsed increases for missile defense in line with a U.S. defense strategy that targets China and Russia as key adversaries.

In a March tweet about the Pentagon budget, Trump declared that, "Because of the \$700 & \$716 Billion Dollars gotten to rebuild our Military, many jobs are created and our Military is again rich."

The White House more recently announced that all Cabinet secretaries would need to cut their budgets by 5 percent for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2019. He said he wanted to keep defense spending at \$700 billion, which would be a cut compared with the 2019 total.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned against Pentagon budget cuts in a speech Saturday in California. Referring to a recent opinion piece written by congressional leaders, Mattis said that "cutting defense will not close the deficit, and I would suggest doing so would be a disservice to troops and the American people they serve and protect, because we all know here today that America can afford survival."

Asked about the president's Monday tweet, Mattis told reporters he hadn't seen it.

NATION

Trump's aides struggle to detail new deal with China

By SHAWN DONNAN
Bloomberg

President Donald Trump's advisers are scrambling to explain a trade deal he claimed he'd struck with China to reduce tariffs on U.S. cars exported to the country — an agreement that doesn't exist on paper and still hasn't been confirmed in Beijing.

In the day after Trump announced the deal in a two-sentence Twitter post, the White House provided no additional information. Meanwhile, China hasn't formulated its response because bureaucrats are awaiting the return home of President Xi Jinping, according to three officials who were briefed but declined to be named as the matter isn't public.

Questioned about the agreement on Monday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, disabused expectations and added qualifiers. Xi was scheduled to visit Portugal on Tuesday and Wednesday before heading back to Beijing.

Monday's global stock market rally showed signs of fading on Tuesday as uncertainty over the details of the deal set in. Still, the onshore yuan extended its biggest advance in more than two years.

"I'll call them 'commitments' at this point, which are — commit-

ments are not necessarily a trade deal, but it's stuff that they're going to look at and presumably implement," Kudlow told reporters at an official White House briefing Monday that followed TV interviews and informal briefings by him and Mnuchin earlier in the day.

The apparent move on auto tariffs was part of a broader trade truce struck by Trump and the Chinese president during a dinner in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Saturday night. As part of that the U.S. said it had agreed to hold off on raising tariffs Jan. 1 while negotiations took place. Kudlow initially said that the Chinese had 90 days from Jan. 1 to come up with "structural changes" regarding intellectual property protections, forced technology transfer and other issues.

The White House later corrected him to say that the 90 days actually began on Saturday.

Trump's tweets, which moved stocks of automobile companies across the globe, followed the dinner at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina. There, all sides agree, the American president consented to postpone an increase in tariffs on Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, which was scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, in exchange for negotiations on broader economic disputes.

"I think there is a specific un-

derstanding that we are now going to turn the agreement the two presidents had into a real agreement in the next 90 days," Mnuchin told reporters at the White House on Monday. "I'm taking President Xi at his word, at his commitment to President Trump. But they have to deliver on this."

He didn't say precisely what China committed to do.

The uncertainty underscored the risk entailed by Trump's eagerness to strike deals without nailing down details in advance. The confusion was exacerbated by the absence of a joint statement from the U.S. and China following the dinner. Financial markets were left struggling to digest talks that the White House portrayed as a major victory for the president.

"That's what happens when you don't have the detailed negotiations going into the summit" and end up with the "broad swath of a 35,000-foot deal," said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "It's risky. There's certainly no guarantee that it will produce the outcomes that we want."

Officials in Beijing did not respond to requests for an explanation and neither did the Chinese Embassy in Washington.



AP

President Donald Trump lauded associate Roger Stone, above, on Twitter on Monday for saying he'd never testify against Trump.

President praises Stone for loyalty amid Russia probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump praised a key witness in the Russia investigation Monday for having the "guts" not to testify against him, and said his former lawyer — who cut a deal with prosecutors — should head straight to prison.

In a pair of politically charged tweets, Trump made clear that he is closely watching those who turn on him in the special counsel's probe, which has ensnared some of the president's closest advisers. So far, five people in Trump's orbit have pleaded guilty to federal charges.

The tweets add to mounting questions about whether Trump is taking steps to improperly influence witnesses in an investigation that has enraged him and shadowed his administration. Some legal experts, though, say they may not amount to witness tampering if Trump didn't directly tell others what to say or not say.

Trump already has come under scrutiny from critics who fear he may use his executive power to protect himself as well as friends and supporters. Last week, Trump told the New York Post that a pardon for his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was not off the table.

Prosecutors say Manafort torpedoed his plea deal with special counsel Robert Mueller by repeatedly lying to them, although Manafort denies that he lied. In one of Monday's tweets, Trump took aim at Michael Cohen, his former personal attorney who once grandly declared he would "take a bullet" for the president but ultimately took a plea deal.

Cohen pleaded guilty last week to lying to Congress about negotiations he had on Trump's behalf for a real estate deal in Moscow. Though he told lawmakers the

talks were done by January 2016, he admitted they actually lasted as late as June — after Trump had clinched the Republican nomination and after Russians had penetrated Democratic email accounts for communications later released through WikiLeaks.

Cohen said he lied out of loyalty to Trump, who insisted throughout the campaign that he had no business dealings in Russia, and to be consistent with his political messaging.

On Monday, Trump ripped into Cohen on Twitter.

"You mean he can do all of the TERRIBLE, unrelated to Trump, things having to do with fraud, big loans, Taxis, etc., and not serve a long prison term!" Trump added that Cohen "makes up stories to get a GREAT & ALREADY reduced deal for himself."

Trump added, "He lied for this outcome and should, in my opinion, serve a full and complete sentence."

Minutes later, Trump lavished praise on his former campaign adviser Roger Stone. Mueller's prosecutors are investigating Stone to learn whether he had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans to release hacked material damaging to Hillary Clinton's presidential effort.

Trump lauded Stone for saying he'd never testify against the president.

"This statement was recently made by Roger Stone, essentially stating that he will not be forced by a rogue and out of control prosecutor to make up lies and stories about 'President Trump,'" he tweeted. "Nice to know that some people still have 'guts'!"

Stone then posted a screenshot of Trump's tweet with a caption that said he was proud of their 40-year relationship and "prouder still of the amazing job he is doing making America Great Again!"

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said Trump's tweet was inappropriate.

NY lawmaker: Deny gun licenses to applicants who post hate speech

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Should authorities be able to deny handgun licenses for hateful tweets?

A New York lawmaker is raising the question with a bill that would require police to scrutinize the social media activity and online searches of handgun license applicants and disqualify those who have published violent or hateful posts.

State Sen. Kevin Parker said he hopes his proposal sparks discussion about how to balance public safety and online privacy. The Brooklyn Democrat noted that mass killers often provide warning signs through their social media posts, as in the case of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting suspect, who ranted online that Jews were "children of Satan."

"It's a new time. It's a new technology," Parker said. "It's time that we in fact start having that conversation about how we monitor social media in a way that we can create safety for our communities."

Free speech watchdogs and even some gun control advocates have raised concerns about the bill, which would require handgun applicants to turn over login



AP

New York State Sen. Kevin Parker wants to disqualify handgun license applicants who make violent or hateful social media posts.

information to allow investigators to look at three years' worth of Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram postings. Google, Yahoo and Bing searches over the previous year also would be checked. Licenses could be denied if investigators uncover threats of violence or terrorism or the use of racial or ethnic slurs. The process would be the same for five-year recertifications.

The bill will be among many related to guns waiting for lawmakers when they return to New York's Capitol in January. While Democrats now control both houses, only a fraction of those measures are expected to make it to floor votes.

Still, Parker has already succeeded at one of his goals of creating "fodder for discussion," including pushback.

At the American Tactical Systems gun range, a short drive from New York's Capitol, gun owners called the proposal unnecessary and intrusive.

"I don't think the government should have access to anybody's history, especially for pistol permits," said Steve Wohlbecker, who works at the range. "And the state police have enough to worry about besides checking everyone's social media."

Civil rights attorney Norman Siegel said he believes bill language directing police to consider "commonly known profane slurs or biased language" is too broad to pass constitutional muster.

"A person could be prejudiced," Siegel said. "That doesn't mean he's not entitled to his Second Amendment right."

NATION

Child killed in Ark. bus rollover

By JILL BLEED
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—A third-grader was killed and at least 45 people were injured when a charter bus carrying youth football players from Tennessee rolled off an interstate and overturned before sunrise Monday in central Arkansas, authorities said.

Arkansas State Police said the bus crashed along Interstate 30 near Benton, about 25 miles southwest of Little Rock. Police said most of the injured were children and that they were taken to hospitals in Little Rock and Benton.

The elementary school-age children from the Orange Mound Youth Association in southeast Memphis were returning home after playing in a tournament in the Dallas area over the weekend, according to Memphis TV station WMC. Orange Mound is a historically black neighborhood that unites around its highly competitive youth football program.

One of half a dozen adults on the bus, Damous Hailey, said the players from 10 Orange Mound Youth Association football teams had been playing in all-star squads. He told The Commercial Appeal newspaper that the bus swerved and then flipped “about 15 or 20 times” before landing on its side at the foot of an embankment.

“When the bus started flipping, the kids were hollering, and we



JOSH BRIGGS, the (BENTON, ARK.) SALINE COURIER/AP

Employees from a wrecker service work to remove a charter bus from a roadside ditch Monday after it crashed alongside Interstate 30 near Benton, Ark.

were trying to calm them down,” he said in an interview from Saline Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for injuries to his right side and leg. “I was holding on, trying to make sure I didn’t get thrown out.”

Teams and coaches affiliated with the Orange Mound Youth Association have not returned phone calls and emails seeking comment.

At a news conference in Memphis on Monday afternoon, Nickalous Manning, area superintendent of Aspire Public Schools, said a third-grader from an Aspire charter school died in the crash. He did not reveal the child’s name.

“When we talked to teammates here, you saw on their faces about what that young person meant to them, the impact that he had on the school community,” Manning said. “This is going to be a loss that’s going to be hard to heal from.”

Students from five Achievement School District facilities in Memphis were also on the bus, according to district spokesman

“When the bus started flipping, the kids were hollering, and we were trying to calm them down.”

Damous Hailey
bus passenger

Bobby White.

Authorities haven’t talked about the cause of the crash that happened under the cloak of darkness. The bus driver told state police that she lost control. The heavily damaged bus came to a rest after tumbling down a steep embankment next to the crook of a sharp bend on an off-ramp.

Dr. Todd Maxson, surgeon-in-chief and trauma medical director at Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock, said 22 of the 26 children aged 9 to 13 who were admitted to the facility were released by late Monday afternoon. He said the four remaining children were stable and expected to fully recover from their injuries.

Maxson said some of the children suffered injuries to the brain or other internal organs, while

others suffered cuts and broken bones. He said two of the kids underwent emergency operations and were stable.

Saline Memorial Hospital admitted 13 injured adults and children, spokeswoman Rebecca Jones said. They were treated for cuts, bruises and some orthopedic injuries, then released.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences received one adult patient who has not been discharged. A hospital spokeswoman said she couldn’t provide any details, citing privacy laws.

It is unclear if seat belts were provided. Lawmakers in Tennessee tried but failed to introduce regulations in 2017 requiring seat belts in new school buses. The bus in Monday’s crash was a charter bus.

Woman killed after giving money to a panhandler

By SARAH MEEHAN
AND COLIN CAMPBELL
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Keith and Jacquelyn Smith dashed Friday night at the American Legion on Madison Street in Baltimore, where they had brought his daughter, Shavon, to celebrate her 28th birthday.

Hours later, at about 12:30 a.m., Keith Smith, 52, of Harford County, found himself calling 911 and rushing Jacquelyn, 54, to the emergency room. She had been stabbed by a man through their rolled-down car window after giving money to a woman panhandler in the rain in East Baltimore, he said.

Jacquelyn Smith, an electrical engineer at Aberdeen Proving Ground, had her necklace and pocketbook snatched by the woman and the man, who approached under the guise of thanking her for giving the woman money, her husband said. She died two hours after they arrived at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he said.

The pair ran away, but the woman paused long enough to say something, Keith Smith said.

“This girl actually said, ‘God bless you!’ after the man stabbed Jacquelyn,” he said.

Mayor Catherine Pugh told members of the City Council at a working lunch Monday that she had spoken with Keith Smith. The council paused to acknowledge Jacquelyn Smith, among others who have died, in a moment of silence during its Monday meeting.

“You’ve seen people who’ve got warm hearts who want to roll down their windows and give to people,” the mayor said. “This incident that occurred this past weekend is unconscionable.”

As Baltimore police cadets canvassed the Johnston Square neighborhood Monday afternoon near the site of the stabbing, interim police Commissioner Gary Tuggle called the killing “a heinous murder.”

Detectives do not yet have any leads on the pair’s identities, he said.

“They’re using this ruse as panhandlers to get the attention of their would-be victims,” Tuggle said. “We also want to caution the public about engaging with panhandlers and recognizing that not all of them have honest intent. Not all of them have real need.”

Keith Smith said the woman appeared to be holding a baby and had a cardboard sign that said, “Please help me feed my baby.” Although he was reluctant to open the window late at night, he said, his wife held money out from the front passenger seat because she “felt moved to give her some money.”

Now wants to get a law passed in his wife’s memory banning panhandling.

Top Court bids adieu to former colleague

By ANN E. MARIMOW
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court formally marked the retirement of Anthony Kennedy on Monday with an old-fashioned exchange of letters that the chief justice read aloud from the bench. The justices, often bitterly divided on high-profile legal issues, were unanimous in their affection for Kennedy, who sat in the front row of the courtroom for the recitation of the missives.

The first letter was dated Dec. 3, and began with, “Dear Tony.”

Chief Justice John Roberts noted that he and his colleagues are “keenly aware” of Kennedy’s absence in their conferences and on the bench, but heartened that the retired justice has continued to have an “active presence” at the court.

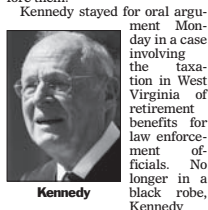
Kennedy, like all retired justices, is entitled to maintain his judicial chambers at the Supreme Court.

The justices praised Kennedy for inspiring them with his “example of ceaseless civility.”

The correspondence was signed by all nine justices and comes at a time when the high court is still recovering from the bitter Senate battle that led to the confirmation of the newest justice, Brett Kavanaugh. It follows an unusual public exchange last month between the chief justice and President Donald Trump, in which Roberts defended the independence of the judiciary in response to criticism from the president.

“We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges,” Roberts said in a statement. “What we have is an

extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them.”



Kennedy

wore a dark suit, red tie and white pocket square.

Before arguments began, Roberts noted that the court will not be in session on Wednesday in observance of the national day of

mourning for former president George H.W. Bush. He followed the reading of the court’s letter to Kennedy with the retired justice’s response, also dated Dec. 3.

“This reply is not to say farewell, for it is my hope to linger here to be with all of you in the days and years to come. It is necessary, of course, to say farewell to being on the bench and in the conference room.”

In a nod to their divided decisions, Kennedy wrote, “Even if we disagreed in a particular case, we admired and respected each other as we sought to explain the law as we found it to be and to ensure that, over the course of time, the law and the freedoms it sustains will be even more secure, ever more revered.”

He closed with, “Yours sincerely, Tony.”

NATION

Boy, 9, gets Colo. town to overturn its snowball ban

Associated Press

SEVERANCE, Colo. — A 9-year-old boy has persuaded the leaders of a small northern Colorado town to overturn a nearly century-old ban on snowball fights, and he already knows who his first target will be — his little brother.

Dane Best, who lives in the often snow-swept town of Severance, presented his arguments at a town board meeting Monday night, and members voted unanimously to lift the ban.

"I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting. "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."

Dane's mother, Brooke Best, told The Greeley Tribune her son had been talking about snowballs since he found out about a month and a half ago that it was illegal to throw them within town limits. The last time it snowed, Dane said he and his friends looked around for police and joked about breaking the law.

Kyle Rietkerk, assistant to the Severance town administrator, said the rule was part of a larger ordinance that made it illegal to throw or shoot stones or missiles at people, animals, buildings, trees and any other public or private property or vehicles.

Snowballs fell under the town's definition of "missiles."

"All of the kids always get blown away that it's illegal to have snowball fights in Severance," Rietkerk said before the meeting. "So what ends up happening is [town lead-

'I think it's an outdated law. I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble.'

ers] always encourage the kids with, 'You have the power. You can change the law,' one has."

Then, Dane took up the cause, writing letters with his classmates in support of overturning the ban.

Dane Best After Monday night's success, his brother, Dax, 4, had better watch out. When board members asked Dane during a meeting in November who he wants to hit, he pointed directly at his little brother.

Dane and his family have researched other Severance ordinances, including one that defines pets only as cats and dogs.

Dane has a guinea pig, which is illegal in Severance too.



PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY HURST, THE (FORT COLLINS) COLORADOAN/AP

Above: Range View Elementary School third-grader Dane Best presents his argument Monday to town board trustees to change a law in Severance, Colo., that bans snowball fights. Below: Best throws the first legal snowball in the town hall parking lot.



Maryland considers raising age to legally buy tobacco

By OVETTA WIGGINS
The Washington Post

Concerned about the long-lasting toll smoking has taken on the black community, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland is leading an effort to impose restrictions on access to tobacco products.

The caucus is pushing for Maryland to join a growing number of cities and states that have raised the age to buy tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, from 18 to 21.

"I think it is a bill that is long over-

due," said Del. Dereck Davis, D-Prince George's County, chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee and the bill's lead sponsor. "There is no good reason for it to remain at 18."

The decision for the caucus to include the anti-tobacco measure as part of its 2019 legislative priorities follows action taken by lawmakers in the District of Columbia, New York City, California and Massachusetts in response to public health warnings about the effects of smoking and the increased popularity of e-cigarettes.

The proposed legislation also comes on the heels of a recent announcement that the Food and Drug Administration will impose restrictions to block the sale of flavored e-cigarettes to those younger than 18 and to eventually ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, which are especially popular among black teenagers.

In Maryland, advocates have tried for four years to pass legislation raising the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21. During the 2018 session, the bill stalled in committee.

The 2019 bill will be sponsored in the Senate by state Sen. Delores Kelley, D-Baltimore County, the new chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee. Her committee and Davis' committee will likely hold hearings on the bill.

Kelley said she thinks the bill is more likely to pass because of the election last month of many younger, progressive lawmakers, who may have an interest in addressing issues — such as smoking — that disproportionately affect minority and economically struggling communities.

Robot janitors coming to mop floors at a Walmart near you

By PAVEL ALPEYEV
Bloomberg

Robots are coming to a Walmart near you, and not just as a gimmick.

The world's largest retailer is rolling out 360 autonomous floor-scrubbing robots in some of its stores in the U.S. by the end of January, it said in a joint statement with Brain Corp., which makes the machines. The autonomous janitors can clean floors on

their own even when customers are around, according to the San Diego-based startup.

Walmart already has been experimenting with automating the scanning of shelves and out-of-stock items and hauling products from storage for online orders. Also, advances in computer vision are making it possible to use retail floor data to better understand consumer behavior, improve inventory tracking and get in away with checkout counters, as

Amazon.com Inc. is trying to do with its cashierless stores. Brain's robots are equipped with an array of sensors that let them gather and upload data.

"We can take anything that has wheels and turn it into a fully autonomous robot, provided that it can go slow and stopping is never a safety concern," said Brain Chief Executive Officer Eugene Izhikevich. "And it's more than just navigation. It is to robots

what the Android operating system is to smartphones."

Brain doesn't make its own hardware, focusing instead on developing software — BrainOS — that endows machines with autonomy in closed environments. At first, the machines need to be operated by humans, who "teach" the layout of the space that needs cleaning. After that, the robots can perform the task autonomously.

The robots, which look like a cross between a miniature Zam-

boni and a motorized wheelchair, already scrub floors at airports in Seattle, San Diego, Boston and Miami, Izhikevich said. Brain last month unveiled a smaller version of the machine developed jointly with SoftBank Group Corp.'s robotics arm and aimed at the Japanese market.

At that time, Izhikevich said he was looking to deploy the robots for security patrol and deliveries inside big-box stores.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Investors betting on truce; oil rallies

By DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

A rally in oil prices after a two-month slide indicates traders are betting that OPEC and its allies, including Russia, will agree to produce less crude.

Representatives of oil-producing nations will hold a highly anticipated meeting Thursday in Vienna, with analysts predicting that they will agree on a cut of at least 1 million barrels a day in an effort to bolster prices.

Russian President Vladimir Putin boosted expectations for a deal when he said at the G-20 summit last weekend that Russia and Saudi Arabia have agreed to extend an attempt by OPEC to balance oil supply and demand — although he provided no figures.

Crude prices began falling in October and continued to plunge last month due to oversupply and fears that weaker global economic growth would dampen energy demand. The price of both benchmark U.S. crude and the standard for internationally traded oil fell 2.2 percent in November.

On Monday, however, West Texas intermediate rose \$2.02, or 4 percent, to settle at \$52.95 a barrel, and Brent international crude climbed \$2.23, or nearly 4 percent, to close at \$61.69 a barrel in London.



MANEESH BAKSHI/AP

A gas production facility is shown in Qatar, which announced Monday it is leaving OPEC in January. The move is not expected to have a big impact on oil supply.

Analysts attribute the turnaround to a truce in the escalating trade dispute between the United States and China. That has raised hopes that with a cessation in further tit-for-tat tariffs, short-term economic growth and energy demand might be stronger than feared.

Also, the Alberta premier announced that the Canadian province will trim production by 8.7 percent because a shortage of pipeline capacity has caused a glut of Canadian crude. Canada is the largest source of oil imported by the U.S.

Finally, the small but wealthy Persian Gulf nation of Qatar said Monday that it will leave OPEC in January. Qatar has been feuding with Saudi Arabia and three other Arab nations that accuse it of financing terrorism.

Qatar is one of the smallest oil producers in OPEC, so its departure will have only a marginal impact on the cartel's share of the world's supply. Still, the surprising announcement by Qatar's energy minister underscores the political tension within OPEC — "which doesn't necessarily make it easier to come to a decision" on cutting production, said JBC Energy ana-

lyst David Wech.

Some analysts expect OPEC and Russia will agree to even larger cuts, about 1.5 million barrels a day. Anything less, they say, could set the stage for continued global oversupply next year and send oil prices lower.

OPEC must produce "a credible agreement" to cut output by about 1.5 million barrels a day for oil prices to recover their recent losses, Credit Suisse analyst William Featherston wrote in a note Monday. The Saudis, he said, will have to bear the largest share of cuts.

Saudi Arabia seems eager to reduce supply, Featherston said, but the kingdom's decision is complicated by President Donald Trump's desire for lower prices and the Saudis' wish to improve relations with the U.S. after the murder of journalist and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump blamed OPEC and Saudi Arabia earlier this year for high oil prices. When U.S. crude skidded to \$54 on Nov. 21, he tweeted, "Thank you to Saudi Arabia, but let's go lower!"

Trump might complain about cuts designed to send prices higher.

Fed chairman says US still facing economic challenges

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Monday that despite solid economic progress, the country still faces a number of challenges ranging from slow wage growth for lower-income workers to sluggish productivity and an aging population.

Powell said in remarks at a Fed awards ceremony that these challenges remain even though unemployment is near a five-decade low and the financial system has been bolstered since the 2008 financial crisis. While there have been recent gains in wage growth, Powell said wages for lower-income workers have grown quite slowly over the past few decades.

He also noted that a decades-long decline in economic mobility has made it more difficult for lower-income Americans to move up the economic ladder.

In his remarks, Powell praised the work of the Fed's community development staff and former Fed Chair Janet Yellen, who put a special emphasis on efforts to help disadvantaged communities during her 16 years at the Fed, including the last four as Fed chair.

Powell did not discuss the Fed's

current interest rate policies in his appearance. The central bank has raised rates three times this year and is expected to boost rates for a fourth time at its Dec. 18-19 meeting.

Investors had been hoping to learn more about Powell's current thinking in testimony he was scheduled to deliver Wednesday before the congressional Joint Economic Committee. However, that appearance was canceled because of the government closure for the funeral of former President George H.W. Bush.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 5)	\$1.1708
Dollar buys (Dec. 5)	€0.8541
British pound (Dec. 5)	\$1.31
Japanese yen (Dec. 5)	¥110.00
South Korean won (Dec. 5)	₩1,082.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2754
Canada (Dollar)	1.3209
China (Yuan)	¥6.8325
Denmark (Krone)	6.5527
Egypt (Pound)	17.9223
Euro	\$1.1389/0.8780
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8061
Hungary (Forint)	284.01
Israel (Shekel)	3.7311
Japan (Yen)	112.82
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3840
Norway (Krone)	8.4702
Philippines (Peso)	52.66
Poland (Zloty)	3.76
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7526
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3635
South Korea (Won)	1,086.62
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9955
Thailand (Baht)	32.68
Turkey (Lira)	5.4258

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federals funds market rate	2.37
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	3.27

MARKET WATCH

Dec. 3, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	28,977
	25,826.43
Nasdaq composite	110.98
	7,441.51
Standard & Poor's 500	30.20
	2,790.37
Russell 2000	15.69
	1,548.96

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



SCIENCE

3 Mars landers in works to follow InSight

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — As Mars' newest resident settles in, Planet Earth is working on three more landers and at least two orbiters to join the scientific Martian brigade. NASA's InSight spacecraft touched down on the sweeping, red equatorial plains on Nov. 26, less than 400 miles from Curiosity, the only other working robot on Mars.

That's about the distance from San Francisco to Pasadena, Calif., home to Mission Control for Mars.

InSight — the eighth successful Martian lander — should be wrapping up two years of digging and quake monitoring by the time rovers arrive from the U.S., Europe and China.

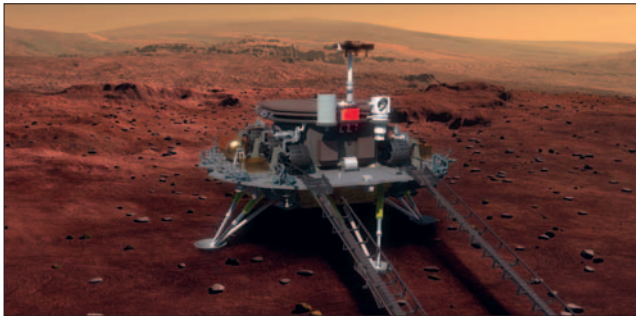
NASA's Mars 2020 will hunt for rocks that might hold evidence of ancient microbial life and stash them in a safe place for return to Earth in the early 2030s. It's targeting a once-wet river delta in Jezero Crater.

The European-Russian ExoMars also will sniff out possible past life, drilling a couple of yards down for chemical fossils. A spacecraft that was part of an ExoMars mission in 2016 crashed under the red planet.

The Chinese Mars 2020 will feature both an orbiter and lander. The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, aims to send its first spacecraft to Mars in 2020; the orbiter is named Hope — or Amal, in Arabic.

It seems our neighbor Mars holds a siren song for earthlings, even as NASA shifts its immediate attention back to our moon.

Just three days after InSight's landing, NASA announced a new commercial lunar delivery



COURTESY OF THE CHINESE STATE ADMINISTRATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, XINHUA/AP

An artist's rendering shows a concept design for the Chinese Mars 2020 rover and lander.

‘The reality is, yes, your nation right now is extremely committed to getting to Mars and using the moon as a tool to achieve that objective as fast as possible.’

Jim Bridenstine
NASA administrator

program. The space agency has chosen nine U.S. companies to compete in getting science and technology experiments to the lunar surface. The first launch could be next year.

NASA wants to see how it goes before trying something similar on Mars.

“The moon is where it’s at right now relative to commercial space,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, head of NASA’s science mission office, which is leading the lunar payload project.

At the same time, NASA is

pushing for an orbiting outpost near the moon for astronauts, at the Trump administration’s direction. It would serve as a stepping-off point for moon landings, according to NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, and provide critical experience close to home before humans embark on a two- to three-year mission to Mars.

Bridenstine envisions a trip to Mars for astronauts in the mid-2030s, admittedly a “very aggressive” goal.

“The reality is, yes, your nation right now is extremely commit-

ted to getting to Mars and using the moon as a tool to achieve that objective as fast as possible,” Bridenstine said following InSight’s touchdown.

Mars is the obvious place for “boots on the ground” after the moon, said Zurbuchen.

What makes Mars so compelling — for robotic and, eventually, human exploration — is its relatively easy access, said InSight’s lead scientist, Bruce Banerdt, of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. One-way travel time is six months, every two years when

the planets are closest. Conditions are harsh but relatively hospitable. “Kind of like being in Antarctica without the snow,” said Banerdt.

On top of that, Mars may be one of the most likely places to find life outside of Earth, according to Banerdt.

Jupiter’s moon, Europa, may have harbored or even still hold life, but it would take so much longer and cost so much more to get there that Banerdt said it’s hard to imagine achieving such a mission anytime soon.

A life-seeking mission to Europa might come while every decade, Banerdt said, while it’s plausible to have robotic sniffers launching to Mars every two years. That’s five Mars missions for every single one at Europa, he noted.

Mars currently has two functioning spacecraft on the surface — InSight and Curiosity — and six satellites in working order from the U.S., Europe and India. The U.S. is the only country to successfully land and operate a spacecraft on Mars. Curiosity has been roaming the red surface since 2012. NASA’s much older Opportunity rover was working until June, when a global dust storm disabled it.

In pursuit of the geological but not biological secrets deep inside Mars, InSight already is providing astounding pictures of a location “no human has ever seen before,” pointed out JPL director Michael Watkins. These photos remind us that in order to do science like this, “we have to be bold and we have to be explorers.”

NASA’s Mars 2020 launch window opens July 17 of that year. Touchdown would be Feb. 18, 2021.

NASA spacecraft becomes ancient asteroid’s 1st visitor

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After a two-year chase, a NASA spacecraft arrived Monday at the ancient asteroid Benu, its first visitor in billions of years.

The robotic explorer Osiris-Rex pulled within 12 miles of the diamond-shaped space rock. It will get even closer in the days ahead and go into orbit around Benu on Dec. 31. No spacecraft has ever orbited such a small cosmic body.

It is the first U.S. attempt to gather asteroid samples for return to Earth, something only Japan has accomplished so far. Flight controllers applauded and exchanged high-fives once confirmation came through that Osiris-Rex made it to Benu — exactly one week after NASA landed a spacecraft on Mars.

“Relieved, proud and anxious to start exploring!” tweeted lead scientist Dante Lauretta, of the University of Arizona. “To Benu and back!”

With Benu some 76 million miles away, it took several minutes for word to get from the spacecraft to flight controllers at Lockheed Martin in Littleton, Colo. The com-

pany built the spacecraft there.

Benu is estimated to be just over 1,600 feet across. Researchers will provide a more precise description at a scientific meeting next Monday in Washington.

About the size of an SUV, the spacecraft will shadow the asteroid for a year before scooping up some gravel for return to Earth in 2023.

Scientists are eager to study material from a carbon-rich asteroid like dark Benu, which could hold evidence dating to the beginning of our solar system 4.5 billion years ago. As such, it’s an astronomical time capsule.

A Japanese spacecraft, meanwhile, has been hanging out at another near-Earth asteroid since June, also for samples. It is Japan’s second asteroid mission. This latest rock is named Ryugu and about double the size of Benu.

Ryugu’s specks should be here by De-

cember 2020 but will be far less than Osiris-Rex’s promised booty.

Osiris-Rex aims to collect at least 60 grams, or 2 ounces, of dust and gravel. The spacecraft won’t land but will rather use a 10-foot mechanical arm in 2020 to momentarily touch down and vacuum up particles. The sample container would break loose and head toward Earth in 2021.

The collection — parachuting down to Utah — would represent the biggest cosmic haul since the Apollo astronauts hand-delivered moon rocks to Earth in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

NASA has gathered back comet dust and solar wind particles before, but never asteroid samples. Japan managed to return some tiny particles in 2010 from its first asteroid mission, named Hayabusa.

Both Benu and Ryugu are considered potentially hazardous asteroids. That means they could smack Earth years from now. At worst, Benu would carve out a crater during a projected close call 150 years from now.

Contact with Benu will not significantly change its orbit or make it more dangerous to us, Lauretta stressed.

Scientists contend the more they learn



COURTESY OF NASA, GODDARD, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA/AP

The asteroid Benu is some 76 million miles from Earth and measures just over 1,600 feet across.

about asteroids, the better equipped Earth will be in heading off a truly catastrophic strike.

The \$800 million Osiris-Rex mission began with a 2016 launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Its odometer read 1.2 billion miles as of Monday.

Both the spacecraft and asteroid’s names come from Egyptian mythology. Osiris is the god of the afterlife, while Benu represents the heron and creation.

Osiris-Rex is actually a NASA acronym for origins, spectral interpretation, resource identification, security-regolith explorer.

WORLD

France suspends fuel tax, utility hikes amid protests

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

PARIS — The French government's decision to suspend fuel tax and utility increases Tuesday did little to appease protesters, who called it a "first step" and vowed to fight on after large-scale rioting in Paris last weekend.

In a major U-turn for the government, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced in a live televised address that the planned increases, which were set to be introduced in January, were now being postponed until the summer.

The backpedaling appeared to be designed to calm the nation, coming three days after the worst unrest on the streets of Paris in decades.

"No tax is worth putting the nation's unity in danger," said Philippe just three weeks after insisting that the government wouldn't change course and remained determined to help wean French consumers off polluting fossils fuels.

Protesters wearing their signature fluorescent yellow vests kept blocking several fuel depots Tuesday, and many insisted their fight wasn't over.

"It's a first step, but we will not settle for a crumb," Benjamin Cauchy, a protest leader.

More than 100 people were injured in the French capital and 412 arrested over the weekend in Paris. Shops were looted and cars torched in plush neighborhoods around the famed Champs-Élysées Avenue.

The Arc de Triomphe, which is home to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and was visited by world leaders last month to mark the centenary of the end of World War I, was sprayed with graffiti and vandalized inside.

"This violence must end," Philippe said.

Philippe also announced that electricity and natural gas prices will be frozen until May 2019 in a move aimed at improving spending power.

Philippe's announcement is

unlikely to put an end to the road blockades and demonstrations, though, with more possible protests this weekend in Paris.

Prominent Socialist figure Segolene Royal, a former candidate for president, lauded Philippe's decision but said it came too late.

"This decision should have been taken from the start, as soon as the conflict emerged," she said. "We felt it was going to be very, very hard because we saw the rage, the exasperation, especially from retirees."

"They should have withdrawn (the tax increases) right away. The more you let a conflict fester, the more you eventually have to concede."

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen lashed out at the decision as too little, twitting that it was "obviously not up to the expectations of the French people struggling with precariousness."

After a third consecutive week-end of clashes in Paris led by protesters wearing distinctive yellow traffic vests, Philippe held crisis



CLAUDE PARIS/AP

Demonstrators wearing yellow vests open the toll gates on a motorway near Aix-en-Provence, southeastern France, on Tuesday.

talks with representatives of major political parties on Monday. He also met with President Emmanuel Macron and other ministers in order to find a quick solution to the crisis.

Facing the most serious street protests since his election in May 2017, Macron has canceled a two-day trip to Serbia to stay in France this week.

The protests began last month

with motorists upset over the fuel tax increase but have grown to encompass a range of complaints, with protesters claiming that Macron's government doesn't care about the problems of ordinary people.

Since the movement kicked off on Nov. 17, four people have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes or accidents stemming from the protests.

Court official: Britain could change mind on Brexit

By JILL LAWLESS
AND RAF CASERT

Associated Press

LONDON — A top official at the European Union's highest court advised Tuesday that Britain can unilaterally change its mind about leaving the European Union, boosting hopes among pro-EU campaigners in the U.K. that Brexit can be stopped.

Prime Minister Theresa May's government insists it will never reverse the decision to leave, but May faces a tough battle to win backing in Parliament before lawmakers vote next week on whether to accept or reject the divorce agreement negotiated with the bloc.

Defeat would leave the U.K. facing a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit and could topple the prime minister, her government or both.

Advocate General Manuel Campos Sanchez-Bordona told the European Court of Justice that a decision by the British government to change its mind about invoking the countdown to departure would be legally valid. The advice of the advocate general is often, but not always, followed by the full court.

The court is assessing the issue under an accelerated procedure, since Britain is due to leave the bloc on March 29. The final verdict is expected within weeks.



FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

Protesters wave European flags to demonstrate against Brexit in front of Parliament in London on Monday.

Britain voted in 2016 to leave the 28-nation bloc, and invoked Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty in March 2017, triggering a two-year exit process. Article 50 is scant on details — largely because the idea of any country leaving the bloc was considered unlikely — so a group of Scottish legislators asked the courts to rule on whether the U.K. can pull out of the withdrawal procedure on its own.

The U.K.'s governing Commission and Council oppose unilateral revocation, arguing it requires unanimous agreement of the 27 remaining members of the bloc.

The court's advocate general said that Article 50 "allows the unilateral revocation of the notification of the intention to withdraw from the EU."

The advice bolstered anti-Brexit campaigners, who hope the decision to leave can be reversed. "That puts the decision about

our future back into the hands of our own elected representatives — where it belongs," said Jo Maughan, a British lawyer who helped bring the case.

May has repeatedly said the government will not seek to delay or reverse Brexit.

But the court's opinion is another headache for the Conservative prime minister as she battles to win Parliament's backing for the divorce deal she has agreed with the EU.

May was due to open five days of debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday, arguing that members of Parliament must back the agreement to deliver on the voters' decision to leave the EU and "create a new role for our country in the world."

But her chances of winning majority backing for the deal when Parliament votes on Dec. 11 look slim.

No time frame set for Kim's visit to S. Korea

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — South Korea's president said Tuesday no time frame has been set for a historic visit to Seoul by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un despite both hoping it will take place this year.

President Moon Jae-in said more important than the timing of the visit is that it would accelerate the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and give impetus to talks between Kim and President Donald Trump.

"Ever since South and North Korea were divided into two countries, this will be the first time that a North Korean leader will visit South Korea," Moon said through an interpreter. "So although there is no time frame set for that, still, it's very meaningful."

Moon made the comments to reporters on the final day of a visit to New Zealand.

Moon and his wife, Kim Jung-sook, arrived in the South Pacific nation late Sunday after attending the Group of 20 summit in Argentina.

Moon said there still is a possibility Kim's visit could take place before the end of the year.

Moon has met Kim three times this year. After their third meeting in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, in September, Moon said Kim agreed to make a reciprocal visit to Seoul in 2018.

Moon has also facilitated a series of high-level talks between

the U.S. and North Korea, including a summit between Trump and Kim in June.

Moon said he and Trump agreed that a visit by Kim to the South Korean capital would give a boost to plans for a second U.S.-North Korea summit, which Trump has said he hopes to hold with Kim in January or February.



Moon

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern praised Moon's efforts after she met with him.

"Mr. President, I want to commend you again for your personal leadership over the last year to reduce tensions and establish dialogue with North Korea," she said.

Ardern said New Zealand and South Korea forged ties on the battlefields during the Korean War nearly 70 years ago. The two countries signed a free-trade deal in 2015.

Ardern said New Zealand will soon allow smoother immigration procedures for visitors from South Korea and plans to improve pension portability between the two countries.

She said that beginning next year, New Zealand would allow South Korean passport holders to enter through automated "eGate" immigration lanes.

WORLD

Israel targets Hezbollah border tunnels

BY ARIEL SCHALIT
AND TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

METULA, Israel — The Israeli military launched an operation Tuesday to “expose and thwart” tunnels it says were built by the Hezbollah militant group that stretch from Lebanon into northern Israel.

The military said the tunnels were not currently being used by militants and that its work to find and neutralize them was taking place inside Israeli territory. However, the Israeli operation could send tensions soaring between Israel and its Iran-backed foe, which have both been preoccupied with other conflicts since their last conflagration more than a decade ago.

“We see Hezbollah’s activities as a fla-

grant and blatant violation of Israeli sovereignty” and U.N. resolutions, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conrux, a military spokesman. “This activity is another example of the negative effects of Iranian entrenchment in the region.”

The military did not disclose how many tunnels snake into Israeli territory from Lebanon, nor reveal details of the operation that could last for weeks, it said. Troops were reinforced along the border, and later Tuesday the military announced the first tunnel had been found and would be demolished.

Conrux said the tunnel, outfitted with electricity, a ventilation pipe and a communication cable, was about 220 yards long, at a depth of 80 feet, and was about 6 feet high. The tunnel’s exit point was found in a patch of farmland southwest of the pastoral Israel-

li border town of Metula, the military said.

Lebanese troops and military intelligence agents, along with U.N. peacekeepers deployed in southern Lebanon, were observing the border Tuesday, a Lebanese military official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Israel has spent years attempting to tackle a network of tunnels from the Gaza Strip into Israel and has used several methods to destroy tunnels and prevent them from being rebuilt, from using earthmovers and other large machinery to building a massive wall along its northern border. The barrier, Israel says, is needed to protect civilians from Hezbollah attacks. While the construction has prompted complaints from the Lebanese army, Hezbollah has

not responded — an indication it could remain restrained amid the new operation.

Israel, meanwhile, gave no special orders to residents of northern Israel, signaling that it too was not expecting an immediate response from Hezbollah.

Israel has tracked the tunnels’ development for years. Conrux said Hezbollah has been developing an offensive plan that would “shift the battleground into Israel,” using firepower and ground units.

“The surprise component of that plan was supposed to be tunnels that would allow infiltrators into Israel,” he said.

He added that Israel has investigated the possibility of underground Hezbollah tunnels since 2013 and that a task force established in 2014 has been searching for them for more than two years.

Israeli tycoon snared in smuggling scandal

BY ARON HELLER
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A shadowy Israeli billionaire who made his fortune in the insular world of diamonds has suddenly found his empire in jeopardy after close associates were busted in a massive smuggling ring and an employee mysteriously plummeted to her death from his high-rise Tel Aviv office building.

Lev Leviev, known in Israel as the “king of diamonds,” has enjoyed close ties to

Russian President Vladimir Putin and has a reputation for generous philanthropy to Jewish causes. But now, Israeli police are demanding that he return from Moscow for questioning on allegations of smuggling, money laundering and tax offenses.

It’s a stunning downturn for one of Israel’s most well-known tycoons. Born in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, the 62-year-old Leviev immigrated to Israel as a youth in 1971 and began working as an apprentice in a polishing plant in Israel’s then-booming diamond industry.

His meteoric rise saw him later establishing a plant of his own and striking deals in Angola and Russia that briefly undercut the DeBeers diamond giant. He later branched out to real estate, construction and chemicals, with his Africa-Israel holding and investment company becoming a powerful player in the Israeli market and establishing Leviev as a precursor to a wave of Jewish oligarchs from the former Soviet Union who have become power brokers in Israel.

Though his net worth is esti-

mated at more than \$1 billion, Leviev suffered heavy losses in recent years because of his massive investment in Russia, where he is known to enjoy strong government support.

Leviev, who moved to London a decade ago and recently relocated to Moscow, denies any allegations of impropriety and is currently negotiating terms of his return with Israeli police. But insiders say that even if he hasn’t been formally charged with a crime, his mere association with the suspects accused of smuggling some \$80 million worth of diamonds hidden in briefcases over several years could be devastating to his brand.

“I can’t believe he would put himself in such a situation,” said Alex Kogan, a journalist who has covered the oligarchs in Israel for the local Russian-language press. “He is still a strong oligarch, and this is not his style.”

“A smuggling of this scale could topple businesses far larger than his. Even if he is not involved, this whole affair will harm him greatly.”

Leviev’s son and brother were arrested in early November, and are currently out on bail in what has been dubbed the “Black Diamond” affair.

The saga took a more tragic turn on Nov. 11, when Mazal Hason, a bookkeeper for Leviev’s diamond firm LLD, fell to her death from a small, elevated bathroom window on the 10th floor of his office building next to Israel’s Diamond Exchange.

The death was initially reported as a suicide, the supposed result of a breakdown following tough police questioning about the smuggling affair. The family acknowledges Hadadi was rattled by the investigation but insists the mother of three would never take her own life and was on her way to meet her husband after work when a mysterious call to her cellphone made her abruptly return to the office.



DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

The Soyuz-FG rocket booster with the Soyuz MS-11 spaceship carrying a new crew to the International Space Station blasts off at the Russia-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Monday.

Russian rocket launch is a success

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

The first Russian rocket to fly with people since a harrowing failure two months ago blasted off Monday morning in a successful return to flight.

The Soyuz rocket and spacecraft launched with three people on board — NASA astronaut Anne C. McClain, Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques and Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko — en route to the International Space Station from a remote launch site in Kazakhstan.

“A great launch,” a NASA commentator said during a livestream of the event.

Six hours later, the spacecraft reached the station and docked with it, culminating a successful mission. The crew is expected to stay on the station until June.

In October, a Soyuz rocket malfunctioned when one of its side boosters failed to separate prop-

erly and slammed into the rocket. That triggered an automatic abort of the spacecraft, carrying the two-member crew on a wild ride nearly to the edge of space before they fell safely back to the ground.

Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, has since said the failure was caused by a “deformed sensor” damaged during the rocket’s assembly. Instead of delaying the next flight with crews on board, the agency actually moved it up — a decision that NASA approved.

In a recent interview, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said Roscosmos has been “very transparent” about the investigation into the malfunction.

“They have shared with us all the data we need to be comfortable and confident that we understand the problem and that it has been resolved,” he said.

NASA has been forced to rely on Russia for transportation to the space station since the shuttle

retired in 2011. While there are several systems capable of flying cargo and supplies to the orbiting laboratory, the Soyuz is the only vehicle able to fly people there. After the failure, officials in the United States and Russia said they had a sense of urgency to get it back up and running.

The malfunction did little to lessen McClain’s resolve. “I would have gotten on the Soyuz the next day,” she recently told reporters.

She said she was confident that Roscosmos had fixed the problem by asking “the three important questions: What happened? Why did it happen? And how do we ensure it doesn’t happen again? Nobody was going to give the green light until those three questions were answered.”

McClain, an Army lieutenant colonel and helicopter pilot, was chosen to be an astronaut by NASA in 2013. This was the first time she has been picked for a mission to space.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Tesla autopilot likely helps stop speeding car

CA REDWOOD CITY — The California Highway Patrol said it used the autopilot of a speeding Tesla to stop the car after its driver fell asleep behind the wheel.

The CHP said that about 3:30 a.m. Friday, officers spotted a Tesla Model S doing about 70 mph on U.S. 101 in Redwood City.

The CHP cruiser pulled behind it and used its lights and siren, but the driver didn't wake up.

Officers then pulled in front and began slowing to a stop, hoping the Tesla's driver-assist feature was on and would do the same. Tesla hasn't confirmed whether the car was on autopilot, but the tactic worked. The Tesla stopped.

Alexander Samek, 45, of Los Altos, was awakened and arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Mild temps mean no penguin parade at zoo

PA PITTSBURGH — Unseasonably mild temperatures are stopping penguins from parading around the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium as planned.

The zoo's "Penguins on Parade" event usually kicks off each year at the start of December. But temperatures in the area reached into the mid-50s on Saturday and the mid-60s on Sunday, so officials delayed the launch until this Saturday.

The zoo's website says temperatures must hover below 45 degrees to be safe for the penguins.

The event is usually held each weekend through February.

Crews rescue anglers stranded on ice floe

MN DULUTH — Crews rescued 35 anglers stranded on an ice floe off Park Point in Duluth.

The Duluth Fire Department reported strong winds created a crack in the ice Saturday morning, with open water exposing 36 anglers and their equipment.

One fisherman entered the water and made it back to shore on his own. Rescuers removed the other 35 anglers using a ladder, three inflatable rescue boats and regular boats.

In addition to Duluth firefighters, other agencies involved included the U.S. Coast Guard, St. Louis County Rescue, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Gold Cross Ambulance.

Like in movie, boy puts tongue on frozen pole

IL SANDWICH — A northern Illinois boy couldn't resist testing the theory that when you apply your tongue to a frozen metal pole it will stick.

Spencer Cline, 11, found out the hard way that it does.

He told The (Aurora) Beacon-News his inspiration came from the movie "A Christmas Story," in which one friend dares another to put his tongue on a frozen pole.

The Sandwich Middle School

THE CENSUS

50 The current age of a turtle that was given to a bedridden little boy in New Hampshire in 1968. Diane, the turtle, celebrated her 50th birthday with party hats and noisemakers, a sheet cake with candles and many well-wishers. Diane was given to Jim Toner when he was 12 and being treated for hip arthritis at home in Braintree. Years later, Jim, and his twin brother, Brad, opened a gift shop in Bristol that became Diane's home. On Saturday, the store was crowded with visitors singing "Happy Birthday" to Diane, who wore a tiny party hat. The brothers have written and illustrated books about Diane and set up a turtle webcam in their shop.



WONG MAYA-E/AP

Breakfasting on the Brooklyn Bridge

People eat breakfast on the Brooklyn Bridge with the Manhattan skyline looming behind them Monday morning in New York.

student was with a friend, but the friend didn't dare him.

As his tongue stuck, Cline panicked, struggling to communicate he was no longer joking around. The friend searched for hot water, then called an ambulance.

Cline managed to pry away his aching tongue in the interim.

Inert mortar round found near building

NJ MORRISTOWN — Police arrested a New Jersey man after finding an inert mortar round behind an apartment building in Pennsylvania.

Authorities said they were called to the Washington Garden Apartments in Washington Borough about 10 a.m. Saturday and found a 120 mm military mortar marked "inert," meaning it was not live.

Officers blocked off the area, and the New Jersey State Police Bomb Squad arrived and took possession of the explosive.

An investigation led police to arrest a 29-year-old Morristown man. He is facing multiple charges, including creating a dangerous condition, unlawful possession of

a weapon and disorderly conduct.

Giant guitar-shaped tower not a hit with all

FL HOLLYWOOD — A guitar-shaped hotel tower rising in the south Florida sky isn't a hit with everyone.

The tower is part of an overhaul of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood. The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported that some people are criticizing the 450-foot-tall building that is still under construction.

Some residents are calling the massive tower ugly and worry that it will distract drivers.

The newspaper reported the hotel owners plan to shoot up 12 beams of lights into the sky to make the guitar neck look longer.

Woman's missing dog found but not returned

DE DELMAR — A Delaware woman who thought her Pomeranian was dead has found out the dog is alive but adopted by someone else who doesn't want to give it back.

The News Journal of Wilmington reported that Angela Andrade is trying to get 8-year-old Jakey back after thinking the dog died when she left it with her father and went out of town. Andrade said her father misled her to believe that Jakey was dead when the dog had only gone missing.

The dog was found by a neighbor, turned over to an animal welfare officer and taken to a shelter. Jakey was adopted by an unnamed individual before Andrade could get to the shelter to claim him. The new owner has declined to return the dog.

Handcuffed fugitive escapes police car

NY NEW YORK — New York police were searching for a suspect who escaped from a cruiser while handcuffed.

Police said Tyrone Johnson, 24, escaped from custody Saturday while being transported to a precinct in Brooklyn's Brownsville neighborhood.

Johnson was taken into custody at 4:30 a.m. Saturday when police stopped him in his car, apparently for not signaling. They discovered

an outstanding bench warrant for his arrest on a prior charge.

Police said he was in the back seat of the police car, hands cuffed behind his back, when he somehow bolted.

Artifacts from 1857 shipwreck to be sold

OH COLUMBUS — A submersible that helped retrieve gold from an 1857 shipwreck off the South Carolina coast three decades ago is for sale, along with the ship's large, bronze bell and other artifacts.

The Columbus Dispatch reported the sale of items from the shipwrecked U.S.S. Central America.

The recovery project is being overseen by a court because it's tied to legal proceedings involving ex-fugitive treasure hunter Tommy Thompson. He found the wreckage on a voyage funded by investors who later sued because they didn't share in the profits.

Central Ohio auctioneer Robert Cassel, who's working on the sale, said there are thousands of items, including jewelry, passengers' tickets and cigars.

From wire reports

FACES

Mandel makes 26 cases for return of show

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

CNBC executives have said “deal” to bringing back the television game show “Deal or No Deal.” Almost 10 years since the competition program hosted by Howie Mandel went off the air, new episodes will air on the cable channel.

The new order, which includes 30 one-hour episodes, begins airing stateside on Wednesday. Along with the return of Mandel as host and the models who back him up, the show continues the challenge of having contestants trying to predict which of 26 suitcases

will win them \$1 million (or leave with as little as one cent).

But the new deal does come with some modifications. The mysterious shadowy figure known as The Banker, who tries to tempt players with confirmed amounts of money, is now a woman. And once she has revealed her offer, players will be allowed to negotiate for a higher sum.

Over the years, Mandel has heard the rumor that there really isn't a Banker and he's the one who is setting the counter offers. He stresses there really is a person on the other end of the phone whose job is to look at what is happening strictly from a financial point of view. All contestants are told in advance that the only job of the Banker is to get the player to take the lowest amount of money. Mandel says the only difference is that the new Banker seems to be shrewder than he remembers.

Mandel's excited about returning to the game show, but he wasn't as eager back in 2005 when he was first offered the opportunity. Comedians hosting game shows are plentiful today, but at that time it was a rarity. Mandel was so concerned about damaging the acting career he had cultivated with projects such as “St. Elsewhere” and “Bobby's World” that he turned down the hosting job three times.

It was his wife, Terry, who finally persuaded Mandel to say yes. The results changed his life and career.

“I went and taped six shows. ... It was the first time I didn't show up with an act. I didn't show up with lines to recite. I didn't show up with anything prepared. I just thought, ‘You know, I'm just Howie.’ And some people won money and some lives were changed,” Mandel says. “I flew to Miami,” and within 30 seconds, the first person said to me, ‘deal or no deal?’

“I had a catchphrase. And the thing just exploded. Then on other networks, you started seeing them hire Jeff Foxworthy to do ‘Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?’ I think Steve Harvey owes me his entire career.”



New four, new tunes

Hootie & the Blowfish hit the road after 10-year break

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Twenty-five years after “Cracked Rear View” launched their careers, Grammy-winning rock band Hootie & the Blowfish will release a new album and launch an official tour next year after a decade-long break.

The Southern pop-rockers, featuring lead singer Darius Rucker, Mark Bryan, Jim Sonefeld and Dean Felber, broke out with their major label debut in 1994, which has been certified 21 times platinum and made the Recording Industry Association of America's list of the top 10 most popular albums of all time.

With hits like “Hold My Hand,” “Let Her Cry” and “Only Wanna Be With You,” the South Carolina-based band went from playing college bars to selling out arenas and winning best new artist at the Grammy Awards in 1996. The band put out five studio albums and other live albums, never coming close to the popularity of the first, with the last one in 2006. Their last official tour was in 2007.

But with a big anniversary approaching in 2019, the four musicians who still play together a couple times a year for annual charity events decided it was time to go out on the road and bring with them some new music.

“Nothing has changed,” insists Rucker, who is now a major country star in his own right. “When the four of us get back together, we fall into the same dynamic of the band that's always there. We've been a band for pretty much 30 years now. We're just older now. There's a lot less alcohol.”

Rucker said they hope to have a single out in the spring with a full album next summer. The Group Therapy Tour starts May 30, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Va., and will hit 44 cities, including the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden in New York and Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. The tour ends in Columbia, S.C., on Sept. 13.

The band talked to The Associated Press from Columbia, where they all met as students at the University of South Carolina, to discuss why their album was so successful, deciding to go dormant as Rucker explored his solo career and returning to their hometown on tour. The answers have been edited for brevity.

AP: How different does the campus look now from when you went there?

Felber: The university has changed a lot. The dorm where we actually lived is now in the dump (The university demolished the dorm several years ago.) It's improved and grown massively.

Bryan: One interesting fact is we're going to be doing our first Columbia, South Carolina, show in probably 20 years. The town that we came out of, that we played a million shows in when we were young, we haven't played here in 20 years or almost.

Are you expecting a lot of old college friends to start texting you again?

Rucker: We're changing our phone numbers.

Looking back at “Cracked Rear View,” the crazy amount of success and attention must have been a big change for you.

Rucker: We probably toured seven years before we got a record deal.

Felber: We did two cassettes and a CD before we got signed and did “Cracked Rear View,” and had been on the road for four years pretty solid. By the time we got there, we were pretty ready and pretty busy.

Bryan: But we also jumped to the big stages really quick, which weren't used to. So, it was kind of interesting trying to take our set from like a club show to these big arenas and that sort of thing. So, there was definitely a period of transition there.

That album came out when the dominant sound in rock was grunge. Did that set you apart?

Sonefeld: Our music was going against the grain of what was popular on radio at the time. It was more of the angst-driven, harder-edged rock, and I think we brought back melody and brought back some of the harmony sounds that weren't really in the middle of rock radio at the time.

Was there a conscious decision to put the band on hold?

Sonefeld: The idea of going dormant for an unknown period of time can be daunting or scary. But we felt like going away for a while, getting back to our families and a little bit more of a sedentary lifestyle might be a good experiment. We didn't say we were going away for six months or six years. We just said, ‘Let's go dormant.’ And Darius was releasing his first (country) single at the same time. So, he really got the opportunity to put a great offer, a full effort into country music.

Where are you in the recording process?

Felber: We have a bunch of songs, and so now we are just working on it and getting them together and deciding which ones are going to be good and which ones aren't going to be good. And then just kind of playing and writing in the studio.

Decade in country music? Are you ready to rock again after a decade in country music?

Rucker: I am looking forward to rocking again. Gonna be fun.

Drake rules most-streamed lists for 2018

From wire services

It's no surprise, but Drake is the king of Spotify and Apple. He is the most-streamed artist of the year globally on both platforms.

Spotify announced Tuesday that the rapper earned 8.2 billion streams in 2018. He also has the year's most-streamed album and song on each platform with “Scorpion” and “God's Plan.”

Drake is also Spotify's most-streamed artist of all time.

Following Drake on Spotify's 2018 list of top artists are Post Malone, XXXTentacion, J Balvin and Ed Sheeran, who was Spotify's most-streamed artist last year.

No women made the Top 5, but Ariana Grande ranks first among female artists globally on Spotify. She's followed by Dua Lipa, Cardi B, Taylor Swift and Camila Cabello.

Drake not only has the year's top song on Spotify, his hit “In My Feelings” came in fifth on the list. “Sad” by XXXTentacion, who died in June, came in second. Malone has the third and fourth most-streamed songs with “Rockstar” and “Psycho.”

Malone's “Beerbongs & Bentleys” is the second most-streamed album on Spotify behind Drake's “Scorpion.” XXXTentacion, Lipa and Sheeran round out the Top 5.

On Apple, Drake's “Nice for What” came in second on the most-streamed song list, and “In My Feelings” was No. 4.

Drake's fifth studio album had four other songs in the top 100 on Apple including “Nonstop,” “I'm Upset,” “Mob Ties” and “Don't Matter To Me,” featuring Michael Jackson.

Post Malone's songs “Rockstar” and “Psycho” were in Apple's top 5. His album “Beerbongs & Bentleys” was the second-most streamed followed by Cardi B's, the late XXXTentacion and Travis Scott.

Other news

■ **Eddie Murphy** and his fiancée, Paige Butcher, have a new baby boy. The couple released a statement Monday saying Max Charles Murphy was born Nov. 30 and weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. The boy's middle name is a tribute to Murphy's older brother and fellow comedian Charlie Murphy, who died of leukemia last year. It's the 13th child for Eddie Murphy, 57, the second child for the 39-year-old Butcher, and the couple's second child together.

■ **Police** found no evidence of wrongdoing after investigating allegations that relatives of radio personality **Casey Kasem** were responsible for his 2014 death but will now turn the matter over to prosecutors, officials in Washington state said Nov. 30.

■ **Salim Akil**, the executive producer and director of the CW series “Black Lightning,” has flatly denied allegations of domestic abuse and copyright infringement that were recently brought against him by actress Amber Dixon Brenner.

Hootie & the Blowfish — from left, Dean Felber, Darius Rucker, Jim Sonefeld and Mark Bryan — is returning with a tour and album 25 years after “Cracked Rear View” launched the South Carolina-based rock band. “We're just older now. There's less alcohol,” says Rucker.

SEAN RAYFORD, INVISION/AP

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OPINION

Should we tinker with human blueprints?

By ELIZABETH BRUENIG
The Washington Post

Sometimes the future arrives abruptly and then withdrawing. Last week, a Chinese researcher named He Jiankui announced that he had successfully altered the genetic code of a pair of twin girls born this month. He said that while they were still embryos, he had edited the babies' genes to make them resistant to HIV infection, but he offered few further details.

Scientists and bioethicists from around the world were incensed by He's announcement, given serious concerns about the danger the still-developing technology could pose to humans. Jennifer Doudna, a researcher at the University of California at Berkeley who helped develop the gene-editing technique known as CRISPR, said she was "deeply disappointed" and "a bit horrified" by what He had done, adding that his intervention was not medically necessary and breached international guidelines on the use of gene-editing technology. Likewise, the National Institute of Health released a strongly worded statement deprecating "a deeply disturbing willingness by Dr. He and his team to flout international ethical norms." Chinese authorities have called for a halt to He's research. But He says the two infants weren't the only ones he worked on, and has raised the possibility that another child with edited genes is yet to be born.

It's a jarring reminder that technology will soon place us in the position of tinkering with the blueprint of what makes us who we are. The time might not come tomorrow. But even if it comes in 100 years, my guess is that we will still be morally unprepared to handle the decisions we will find ourselves faced with. Because to know what a human being ought to be, you have

to have some sense of what a human is for — an issue we barely contemplate as a society, much less share some general sense of.

Consider fixing a toaster. You know what a toaster is for, so if some part of it is broken, it's relatively clear how it needs to be fixed. If a heating element is damaged, it needs to be able to heat again — because toasting bread is what a toaster is for, and that requires heat. Now consider that you've been tasked with fixing something described to you only as the best possible machine. Though certain repairs might be obvious, simply making a machine better for the sake of being better widens the horizon of possible changes tremendously. What do you add to a machine that's only meant to be better and better? Heating elements, cooling ones, weapons, defenses? It would be hard to know where to begin.

When it comes to humans, the task is even more complicated. In contemporary Western society, we tend to decide what human beings are for at an individual level, with each person choosing his or her own purpose in life. And that can work well enough, until the potential to refashion what a person is comes into play. If each family determines individually, for instance, that its child ought to be as intelligent and athletic as genetically possible, then we'll be living in a world populated with Olympian geniuses.

But we'll still be living in a society that's set up mostly for ordinary people, and therein lies the problem. The labor market won't suddenly shift to provide jobs and tasks that suit extraordinary intelligence and athletic ability, so we'll need to fill fairly mundane positions, in which average people might be perfectly content but artificially engineered superhumans might not. In that case, the independent creation

of particular kinds of individuals will begin to strain society as a whole.

Then, too, there is the stratification of society by alteration, and the potential drift toward uniformity, as parents making decisions about what talents to endow their children with all look toward the same kinds of success. Looking to the kinds of traits that succeed in labor markets or current social structures is just another way to bypass answering the deeper question of what people are meant to be, what we're for. It offloads the problem onto the ad-hoc realities of the day rather than attempting to form a coherent answer that encompasses all people with a common good in mind.

We are creatures made for social living. But we think, now, only as individuals. This has long caused a certain amount of tension, though at a semimanageable level. But if gene editing becomes commonplace, our estrangement from our essential sociability will likely manifest in more and more troubling ways: in an overabundance of people made for individual greatness, for instance, with little thought given to the functioning of society as a whole and in the inadvertent creation of classes of the fit and the unfit. None of this means that gene-editing technology can't be used for good; it means only that we seem morally unprepared for the technological capabilities we're fast acquiring.

And maybe none of this will happen, or maybe it will happen so slowly we barely notice, or maybe it will happen in a very long time. But it's worth keeping in mind that a society can be technologically capable of producing a solution before it's morally capable of comprehending a problem. Uncertain ties lie down that path.

Elizabeth Bruenig is a Washington Post opinion columnist.

Can any economic measure hold China back?

By LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS
Special to The Washington Post

Residents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping reached an agreement over the weekend to meet in the Group of 20 meeting in Argentina on a framework for trade dialogue that will delay the imposition of new U.S. tariffs. While surely better than the alternative, this step does not address any of the fundamental tensions in the economic relationship between the United States and China.

Few observers doubt that China needs to make significant changes in areas such as intellectual property, the rights of foreign investors and subsidies to state-owned companies if it is to meet international norms. Antipathy toward Chinese economic practices is hardly confined to Trump. Recent months have witnessed attacks on the existing economic relationship from members of previous U.S. administrations, noted China experts and the American business community. Indeed, it can be fairly said there are no China camps in the United States.

Yet it is also easy to sympathize with Chinese leaders who insist that China's political system is for it to choose, and that economic negotiations should focus on the pragmatic identification of win-win opportunities rather than on questions of ideology. At the same time, it is hard to see how anyone with a modicum of historical knowledge could fail to be concerned by a combination of increased domestic repression, centralization of power in one man,

rapidly increased military spending and rhetoric about enlarging China's role in the world.

The United States requires a viable strategy for addressing its legitimate grievances. Unfortunately, neither rage nor proclamation constitutes such a strategy. A viable approach would involve feasible objectives clearly conveyed and supported by carrots and sticks, along with a willingness to define and accept success.

At the heart of the problem in defining an economic strategy toward China is the following awkward fact: Suppose China had been fully compliant with every trade and investment rule and had been as open to the world as the most open countries at its income level. China might have grown faster because it reformed more rapidly, or it might have grown more slowly because of reduced subsidies or more foreign competition. But it is highly unlikely that its growth rate would have been altered by as much as 1 percent.

Equally, while some U.S. companies might earn more profits operating in China, and some job displacement in U.S. manufacturing might be magnified, if U.S. subsidies may have occurred, it cannot be argued seriously that unfair Chinese trade practices have affected U.S. growth by even 0.1 percent a year.

This is not to say that China is not a threat to the United States. China is a seismic event for the United States to be overtaken after a century as the world's largest economy. If, as is plausible though far from certain, the United States loses its lead over the next decade in information technology, artificial intelligence and biotech, the trade balance will be magnified.

Can the United States imagine a viable

global economic system in 2050 in which its economy is half the size of the world's largest? Could a political leader acknowledge that reality in a way that permits negotiation over what such a world would look like? While it might be unacceptable to the United States to be so greatly surpassed in economic scale, does it have the means to stop it? Can China be held down without inviting conflict?

These are hard questions without obvious answers. But that is no excuse for ignoring them and focusing only on short-run frustrations. China appears to be willing to accommodate the United States on specific trade issues as long as the United States accepts its right to flourish and grow, knowing that sheer weight of numbers will make it the clear world's largest economy before long.

That is a deal the United States should take while it can. It can bluster but it cannot, in an open world, suppress the Chinese economy. Trying to do so risks strengthening the most anti-American elements in Beijing.

Trump, for all his failings, has China's attention on economic issues in a way that other presidents have not. It is worth asking whether he will be able to use his leverage to accomplish something important. That will depend on his ability to convince the Chinese that the United States is capable of taking yes for an answer, and on his willingness to go beyond small-bore commercialism. We can hope, but we should not hold our breath.

Lawrence H. Summers is a professor at and past president of Harvard University. He was treasury secretary from 1999 to 2001 and an economic adviser to President Barack Obama from 2009 through 2010.



SPECIAL REPORT

included in the Thursday, Dec. 6,
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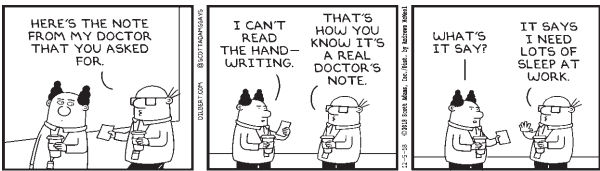
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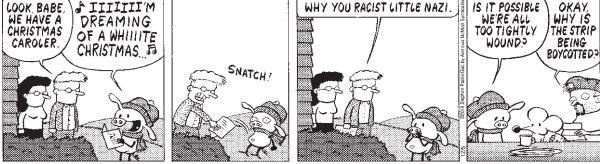
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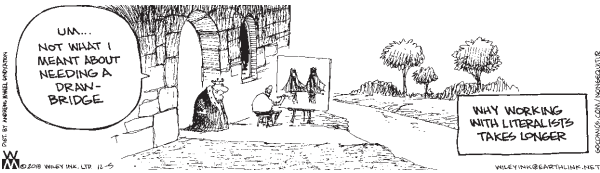
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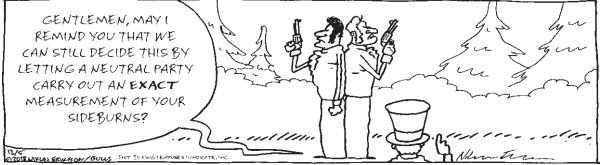
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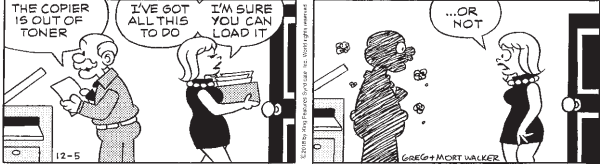
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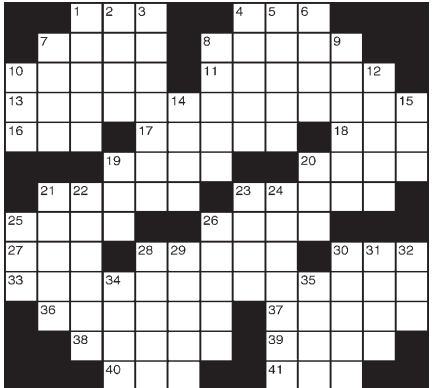
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Vinyl records
- 4 Away from NNW
- 7 Surrealist Joan
- 8 Actor Keach
- 10 Pago Pago's place
- 11 Core groups
- 13 Informal meal
- 16 Rm. coolers
- 17 Scatterbrained
- 18 — chi
- 19 Exploits
- 20 Canal zones?
- 21 Regarding
- 23 Persnickety
- 25 Nile queen, informally

DOWN

- 40 Wooden pin
- 41 Stanley Cup org.
- 19 Roswell sighting
- 20 Curvy letter
- 21 Fully committed
- 22 Word with public or private
- 23 Nixon successor
- 24 Letter after tau
- 25 DoI. fractions
- 26 Trousers
- 28 — Hart ("Chicago" role)
- 29 "Dallas" surname
- 30 Entangle
- 31 Bottom lines?
- 32 Triage ctrs.
- 34 Profound
- 35 Ham's dad

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	E	A	T	G	A	Y	D	A	D	A
I	C	K	Y	E	G	O	E	B	O	N
T	R	I	P	T	U	N	A	M	E	L
T	U	N	I	S	I	A	G	A	T	E
			N	I	N	B	I	N		
W	I	N	G	S	T	U	N	D	R	A
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T	U	N	N	E	L	S	S	P	I	N
			U	K	E	L	I	U		
S	T	A	G	E	T	U	N	E	F	U
T	U	N	G	S	T	E	N	B	A	R
O	B	O	E	O	R	G	L	U	G	S
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12-5

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VNPDENQW CNCHFFW VGXHYDQ
NJJ CSD ZHYDQ FDHCSDX
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E D D Z Q M V - V I D Q D Q ?
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I INTEND TO GIVE HER BIRTHDAY GRATINGS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals C


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TEXAS SOUTHERN — Named Clarence McKinney football coach.

NHL

Roundup

Kucherov, Lightning top Devils

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Nikita Kucherov and Brayden Point like playing on the same line, and it's a combination that's working out well for the Tampa Bay Lightning, too.

Kucherov had a goal and three assists for his first four-point game, Point added a goal and two assists, and the Lightning beat the struggling New Jersey Devils 5-1 Monday night.

"He's a speedy player who is fun to play with," Kucherov said of Point.

Point returned the compliment.

"He's so easy to play with," he said. "He gets the puck to me in easy places. Kuch just works some good passes and I just shoot."

Steven Stamkos had a goal and an assist, and Tyler Johnson and Yanni Gourde also scored to help the Lightning become the first team in the league to reach 20 wins this season. Ryan McDonagh had two assists and Louis Domingue stopped 26 shots as Tampa Bay got its third straight win and sixth in seven games.

Egor Yakovlev scored his first career goal for the Devils, who have lost six straight and eight of nine. Keith Kinkaid started and gave up four goals on 20 shots before he was pulled after two periods. Cory Schneider had five saves in the third.

"You have to give them credit," Devils coach John Hynes said. "They are a heck of a hockey team. They just outworked us. Sometimes, it becomes a slippery slope. We didn't play well enough to win the game."

Predators 2, Sabres 1: Kevin Fiala scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period to lead host Nashville past Buffalo.

Ryan Ellis also scored and Pekka Rinne stopped 20 shots to help the Predators win their second straight.

Sam Reinhart had a goal for Buffalo, which has lost three straight after a 10-game winning streak. Carter Hutton had 23 saves.

Rinne denied a shot from the Sabres' Jack Eichel with 15.4 seconds remaining to preserve the victory.

Stars 4, Oilers 1: Jamie Benn scored his fifth goal in six games, helping host Dallas beat Edmonton.

Jason Dickinson, Brett Ritchie and Jaden Lindell also scored in the Stars' third straight win. Mattias Janmark had two assists and Anton Khudobin stopped 28 shots.

Juhar Khaira spoiled Khudobin's shutout bid with 5:24 left in the third and Mikko Koskinen finished with 21 saves as the Oilers snapped a three-game winning streak.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	28	20	7	1	41	108	80
Toronto	27	19	8	0	38	98	70
Buffalo	28	17	8	3	37	86	78
Boston	26	14	8	4	32	71	64
Montreal	27	12	10	5	29	83	88
Ottawa	27	12	12	3	27	98	109
Detroit	27	12	12	3	27	76	87

Florida	25	10	10	5	25	82	91
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	26	15	8	3	33	95	83
Columbus	26	15	9	2	32	90	83
N.Y. Islanders	25	13	9	3	29	76	72
N.Y. Rangers	28	13	12	3	29	80	88
Carolina	26	12	10	4	28	66	71
Pittsburgh	25	10	10	5	25	83	84
Philadelphia	25	11	12	2	24	76	88
New Jersey	26	9	12	5	23	75	91

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	28	19	8	1	39	90	67
Colorado	27	16	6	5	37	99	73
Winnipeg	26	16	8	2	34	91	77
Dallas	28	15	10	3	33	78	72
Minnesota	26	14	10	2	30	83	76
Chicago	28	9	14	5	23	77	104
St. Louis	25	9	13	3	21	74	85

Pacific Division							
Calgary	27	16	9	2	34	91	76
Anaheim	29	14	10	5	33	70	83
San Jose	28	13	10	5	31	85	89
Vegas	28	14	13	1	29	82	78
Edmonton	27	13	12	2	28	71	83
Arizona	25	12	11	2	26	66	66
Vancouver	29	11	15	3	25	82	102
Los Angeles	27	10	16	1	21	58	82
Note: Two points for a win, one point for an overtime loss.							

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Monday's games

Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 1
Nashville 2, Buffalo 4
Dallas 4, Edmonton 1

Tuesday's games

Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders
Boston at Florida
Calgary at Columbus
Colorado at Pittsburgh
Ottawa at Montreal
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Toronto at Buffalo
Washington at Vegas
Minnesota at Vancouver
Arizona at Los Angeles

Wednesday's games

Edmonton at St. Louis
Chicago at Anaheim
Carolina at San Jose

Thursday's games

Detroit at Toronto
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh
Colorado at Florida
Columbus at Philadelphia
Montreal at Ottawa
Boston at Tampa Bay
Washington at Arizona
Minnesota at Calgary
Nashville at Vancouver
Chicago at Vegas
New Jersey at Los Angeles

Monday

Lightning 5, Devils 1

Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 1
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Kucherov (12:00, McDonagh), 13:31. 2, Tampa Bay, Point (20 Kucherov, Hedman), 19:34 (pp).

Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Johnson (11 McDonagh, Kucherov), 8:20. 4, New Jersey, Yakovlev (1 Vatanen, Noesen), 15:51. Tampa Bay, Gourde (10 Stamkos, Palat), 19:39.

Third Period—6, Tampa Bay, Stamkos (9 Point, Kucherov), 0:22 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 12-8-6—26. New Jersey 8-9-10—27.

Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 2 of 2 (10:00, 11:00). New Jersey 0 of 0.

Goalies—Tampa Bay, Domingue 11-4-0 (27 shots-26 saves). New Jersey, Schneider 0-5-0 (6-5). Kucherov 1-5-5 (26-16).

A—13:394 (16:514). T—2:32.

Predators 2, Sabres 1

Buffalo 1, Nashville 2
First Period—1, Nashville, Ellis (2 Doherty, Joffe), 16:25 (pp).

Second Period—1, Nashville, Reinhart 7, 5:20. 3, Nashville, Fiala 5 (Ekholm, Smith), 16:59.

Shots on Goal—Buffalo 8-7-8—23. Nashville 11-9-5-21.

Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 4; Nashville 1 of 2.

Goalies—Buffalo, Hutton 12-8-1 (25 shots-23 saves). Nashville, Rinne 12-4-1 (22).

A—17:311 (17:113). T—2:31.

Stars 4, Oilers 1

Edmonton 0, Dallas 4
First Period—1, Dallas, Dickinson (10:59, Ritchie), 10:59.

Second Period—2, Dallas, Ritchie (1 Janmark, 25:13), 10:59. 3, Dallas, Benn (12 Ray, Bayreuther), 7:24 (pp). 4, Edmonton, Khaira (1 Wideman, Drastich), 10:06. 5, Dallas, Lindell (4, 17:46 (sh)).

Goalies—Edmonton, Koskinen 8-3-1 (24 shots-21 saves). Dallas, Khudobin 5-2-2 (29-28).

A—18:125 (18:532). T—2:36.



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, center left, holds a jersey after the NHL Board of Governors announced Seattle as the league's 32nd franchise Tuesday in Sea Island Ga. Joining Bettman are, from left to right, Jerry Bruckheimer, David Bonderman, David Wright, Tom Lieweke and Washington Wild youth hockey player Jaina Goscinski.

NHL Board of Governors approves adding Seattle

League expands to 32 franchises

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

SEA ISLAND, Ga. — The National Hockey League is expanding to Seattle.

The NHL Board of Governors unanimously approved adding Seattle as the league's 32nd franchise on Tuesday, with play set to begin in 2021 to allow enough time for arena renovations.

The as-yet unnamed franchise will be the Emerald City's first major winter sports team since the NBA's SuperSonics left town in 2008.

"Today is an exciting and historic day for our league as we expand to one of North America's most innovative, beautiful and fastest-growing cities," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "And we are thrilled that Seattle, a city with a proud hockey history that includes being the home for the first American team ever to win the Stanley Cup, is finally joining the NHL."

The announcement came a few moments after Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan let the news slip at a watch party in Seattle, prompting cheers: "I got a call from a mole in the room and it was a unanimous vote. We're getting hockey."

The decision was widely expected after the Seattle Hockey Partners group impressed the board's executive committee in October with a plan that had all the ingredients the NHL was



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Ryan Kelly, left, Otto Rogers and Rebecca Moloney cheer the announcement of a new NHL team in Seattle at a party Tuesday.

looking for Strong ownership led by billionaire David Bonderman and producer Jerry Bruckheimer, a downtown arena in a sports-crazed city and a season-ticket drive that drummed up 10,000 orders in 12 minutes after the city would lead the search for the club's first general manager and staff. Tippet signed on to the project because of a connection to president and CEO Tom Lieweke, a major force in delivering an NHL team to Seattle.

Lieweke got his start in hockey with the Minnesota Wild. He also worked in Vancouver and most recently helped build Tampa Bay into a powerhouse in the Eastern Conference. Lieweke led the Lightning in 2015 to become the COO of the NFL and didn't have any interest in leaving the league office until the project in Seattle began to gain traction.

The arena's debut by Vegas in 2017, which included a run at the Stanley Cup Final, gave the

league more confidence about moving forward so quickly.

Seattle will benefit from the same expansion draft rules Vegas had. Its front office is expected to be led by Dave Tippett, a former coach who would lead the search for the club's first general manager and staff. Tippet signed on to the project because of a connection to president and CEO Tom Lieweke, a major force in delivering an NHL team to Seattle.

Lieweke got his start in hockey with the Minnesota Wild. He also worked in Vancouver and most recently helped build Tampa Bay into a powerhouse in the Eastern Conference. Lieweke led the Lightning in 2015 to become the COO of the NFL and didn't have any interest in leaving the league office until the project in Seattle began to gain traction.

AP Sports Writer Tim Booth in Seattle contributed.

Jokic lifts Denver with triple-double

The game pitted Leonard, the Eastern Conference player of the week, against Denver's Paul Millsap, the Western Conference award winner.

John Wall had 18 points and 15 assists for the Wizards, who collected just their third road win of the season.



Oklahoma City	26	24	37	23-110
Detroit	17	23	19	24-83

Three-point goals—Oklahoma City 7 (Grant 2-3, Westbrook 2-7, George 2-3, Johnson 1-2, Patterson 0-1; Ferguson 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Abrines 0-2). Detroit 6-32 (Griffin 3-8, Smith 1-2, Jackson 1-5, Johnson 1-6, Calderon 0-1, Drummond 0-1, Town 0-1, Galloway 0-2, Robinson III 0-2, Nnanna 0-4). Rebounds—Oklahoma City (George) 10, Detroit 41 (Drummond, Robinson III, Pachulia 6). Assists—Oklahoma City 23 (Westbrook, Schroder 6), Detroit 16 (Griffin 4). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 24, Detroit 18. Technicals—Drummond 1, A. 14, 372 (70, 491).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Perfect Ward leads Spartans past Hawkeyes

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Nick Ward used his power to gain position and his touch to score, putting together a perfect game from the field.

Ward made all 10 of his shots, scored a career-high 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead No. 10 Michigan State to a 90-68 win over No. 18 Iowa on Monday night.

"There's not a lot I can yell at him about," coach Tom Izzo said. "He did miss some free throws."

The 6-foot-9, 245-pound Ward, who was 6-for-11 from the line, was simply too much for the Hawkeyes to handle.

"He's real physical down there and they were getting him on the high-low," Iowa center Luka Garza said.

That type of offensive attack against a zone may have helped the Spartans when they lost to Syracuse in the second round of the 2018 NCAA tournament.

"We've been working on it all season," Ward said. "Since the Syracuse game, we've done that every day."

The Spartans (7-2, 2-0 Big Ten) trailed for more than six minutes in the first half and were behind by as much as six points before a Ward-led surge gave them a 43-33 lead at halftime.

The Hawkeyes (6-2, 0-2) had no hope for a comeback because they missed 19 of 20 shots to open the second half.

What went wrong?

"Pretty much everything," Iowa coach Fran McCaffery said.

Michigan State's Xavier Tillman scored a career-high 14 points and had eight rebounds off the bench. Kenny Goins scored a career-high 19, surpassing his

combined points from the previous five games, had a career-high seven assists and grabbed 12 rebounds. Joshua Langford added 14 for the Spartans.

Iowa's Tyler Cook scored 15 points, Isaiah Moss had 13 points and Jordan Bohannon added 11.

The Hawkeyes, who came into the game averaging 82.6 points, made just 33 percent of their shots and allowed the Spartans to connect on 52 percent of their shots.

"We made it really difficult for them inside and out," Tillman said.

Big picture: Iowa: The Hawkeyes opened the season with six wins, including one against then-No. 13 Oregon, but have opened the Big Ten season with two straight losses. They lost to No. 22 Wisconsin 72-66 in their conference opener. Iowa will need to regain some confidence soon.

"They're a lot better than they played," Izzo said.

Michigan State: The Spartans have won games by making a lot of shots from the outside, but they were determined to take advantage of their strength inside with Ward and Tillman and the plan paid off.

Record books: Ward became the fifth player in program history to make at least 10 shots without a miss and the first since Alan Anderson was also 10-for-10 on Feb. 24, 2005, against Wisconsin. Ron Charles was a school-record 12-for-12 on Jan. 24, 1980, against Michigan.

"It's funny, I didn't know I was 10-for-10 until the coaches came in the locker room," Ward said. "I thought I missed a shot."

Ward did miss a shot, but he was fouled and the attempt from the field didn't count.

Sharing the ball: Michigan State made 31 shots, 28 of which were set up by assists.

"That's unbelievable," Izzo said.



AL GOLDIN/AP

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo, left, talks with Nick Ward during the second half Monday against Iowa in East Lansing, Mich.

Top 25 roundup

Wisconsin rallies in second half to top Rutgers

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin coach Greg Gard didn't need to be reminded that the No. 12 Badgers used a second-half rally for the third straight game to secure a victory.

Ethan Happ scored a game-high 20 points and D'Mitrik Trice added 14 as Wisconsin beat Rutgers 69-64 on Monday night in its Big Ten home opener.

"We've played good teams; look at the stretch we've been through," Gard said of the Badgers, who bested then-No. 14 Iowa on the road and NC State heading into the Rutgers game.

"It's the Big Ten, it's going to be rough and competitive, and probably, nationally, top to bottom, is as people have heard, one of the best leagues in the country, if not the best in terms of the depth."

Khalil Iverson energized Wisconsin (8-1, 2-0 Big Ten) in the second half with a jumper, a steal and layup on consecutive possessions, pulling the Badgers within a point at 31-30 with 19:18 remaining.

Nate Reuvers, a 6-foot-10 sophomore forward, gave Wisconsin its first lead of the game at 35-33 with a three-pointer from the left wing with 18:05 left.

Reuvers finished with 10 points as the Badgers pieced together a 13-4 run to open the second half and never looked back.

Trice said the Badgers became more aggressive on the defensive end and took better care of the ball. Wisconsin had a season-low six turnovers, including one in the second half.

"It was super important to finally get some stops on defense, which turned into good defense," Trice said. "When we start getting stops, that kind of is a momentum shift on offense. We can get the ball inside



ANDY MANN/AP

Wisconsin's Ethan Happ, left, shoots against Rutgers' Shaquille Doorson during the second half Monday in Madison, Wis. Happ had a game-high 20 points in a 69-64 win.

and we score a lot better."

Happ, who scored 12 second-half points, shot 10-for-17 overall from the field.

Rutgers coach Steve Pikiell said Happ, a preseason All-American, was a handful for the Scarlet Knights in the second half. He felt confident with his team's two-day preparation, after losing at home to then-No. 9 Michigan State on Friday.

"Happ took over when he had to, he's terrific and he's a match-up problem," Pikiell

said. "They made some timely shots and we didn't. We allowed some guard post-ups, too, which hurt us a great deal."

"They came out in the second half and got on a roll, and we needed some timely baskets to go in."

Eugene Omoruyi scored 17 points and had eight rebounds for the Scarlet Knights (7-2, 0-2), who lost a second straight game to a ranked opponent. Geo Baker and Peter Kiss added 15 and 12 points, respectively,

for Rutgers, which shot 13-for-32 in the second half.

The Scarlet Knights shot 53.8 percent from the field in the first, with Carter contributing 9 points on 4-for-7 shooting to push Rutgers to a 31-26 lead at halftime.

Rutgers' lead ballooned to nine points to 24-15 on a Caleb McConnell layup with 2 minutes, 28 seconds to go in the first half.

The Badgers' 8-1 record is their best start to the season since 2014-15, when that squad bled to a 15-1 record.

While Happ's contributions are critical, Trice also is making a huge impact. The redshirt sophomore has shot 60 percent (30-for-50) from three-point range through the Badgers' first eight games.

No. 4 Virginia 83, Morgan State 45: DeAndre Hunter and Kyle Guy scored 15 points each and the host Cavaliers won their eighth straight game.

Nine different Virginia players scored during a 24-6 first-half burst that turned a 23-14 lead into a 47-20 runaway. Virginia (8-0) then kept the defensive clamps on the Bears, who didn't make their third field goal of the second half until 1:57 remained.

Malik Miller and Victor Curry led the Bears (2-5) with seven points apiece. Morgan State was 5-for-28 (19.7 percent) from the field in the second half and missed all eight of its three-point tries. For the game, the Bears shot 14-for-54 (25.9 percent).

No. 11 Florida State 83, Troy 67: P.J. Savoy scored 16 points, knocking down four three-pointers, and the host Seminoles shook off a sluggish performance to put away Troy.

M.J. Walker added 14 points, while Trent Forrest had 13 points and five rebounds for the Seminoles (7-1), who committed 16 turnovers and had just 13 assists.

MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS



RICHARD DREW/AP

Robinson Cano, left, and Edwin Diaz arrive to participate in the New York Mets' annual Kids Holiday Party at CitiField in New York on Tuesday. The Mets acquired eight-time All-Star second baseman Cano and major league saves leader Diaz from the Seattle Mariners in a seven-player trade Monday.

Mets acquire Cano, Diaz

Rebuilding Mariners get Bruce, Swarzak, three prospects

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aiming for an instant upgrade after two failing seasons, the New York Mets and their rookie general manager turned to a most familiar face.

The Mets made a splash — that much was certain — when they acquired eight-time All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano and major league saves leader Edwin Diaz from the Seattle Mariners in a seven-player trade Monday.

In his first big move as Mets GM, Brodie Van Wagenen brought the 36-year-old Cano back to New York. Van Wagenen previously was an agent and represented the former Yankees slugger.

The rebuilding Mariners also sent \$20 million to the Mets for outfielder Jay Bruce, reliever Anthony Swarzak and three prospects: former first-round draft picks Justin Dunn and Jarred Kelenic, plus right-hander Gerson Bautista.

Mets fans were strongly split on the deal.

Some applauded the trade as a chance for a team three years removed from the World Series to quickly head back in that direction. The Mets went 77-85 this year despite a rotation that included NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler.

Others saw the Mets mortgaging their future for a high-priced player on the back end of his career. Many Mets rosters remembered deals for aging second basemen Carlos Baerga and Roberto Alomar Jr. that didn't work out — it also was mentioned that on this date, Dec. 3, back in 1969, the Mets traded soon-to-be star center fielder Amos Otis to Kan-

sas City for washout third baseman Joe Foy.

Cano is halfway through a \$240 million, 10-year contract. With the cash from Seattle, the Mets will be responsible for \$100 million of the \$120 million owed to Cano.

Cano served an 80-game suspension this year following a positive test for Furosemide, a diuretic that can be used to mask performance-enhancing drugs. Cano claimed the Furosemide was given to him by a licensed doctor in the Dominican Republic. The suspension was announced May 15, two days after Cano's right hand was broken when he was hit by a pitch thrown by Detroit's Blaine Hardy.

Cano returned to the Mariners on Aug. 14 and finished with a .303 batting average, 10 homers and 50 RBIs in 80 games. He waived his no-trade clause to return to New York.

Diaz's value may never have been higher after the hard-throwing 24-year-old topped the majors with 57 saves last season. The Mets needed a closer after trading Jeurys Familia to Oakland last July.

The Mariners are completely revamping their roster this off-season, having already traded ace James Paxton to the Yankees. Seattle also traded All-Star shortstop Jean Segura and pitchers James Pazos and Juan Nicasio to Philadelphia on Monday for veteran slugger Carlos Santana and young infielder J.P. Crawford.

"This trade bolsters our player development system with the additions of Jarred Kelenic and Justin Dunn, while also providing immediate impact to our major league club," Mariners GM Jerry Dipoto said in a statement.

Diaz had a 1.96 ERA and struck out 124 in 73⅓ innings.

Seattle has not reached the playoffs since 2001, the longest postseason drought across the four major pro American sports. After finishing third in the AL West despite an 89-73 record, the Mariners decided to go in another direction.

Bruce, a three-time All-Star with Cincinnati who is 31, was acquired by the Mets at the 2016 trade deadline, dealt to Cleveland in August 2017, became a free agent and returned to the Mets last January. He hit .223 this year and set career lows with nine homers and 37 RBIs, sidelined from June 18 through Aug. 24 by a right hip issue.

Swarzak, 33, was 0-2 with a 6.15 ERA in 29 relief appearances. He was on the disabled list twice, from April 1 through June 4 due to a strained left oblique and from Aug. 4 through Sept. 8 with right shoulder inflammation.

Bruce is owed \$13 million in each of the next two seasons, and Swarzak is due \$9 million in the final season of his two-year deal.

Kelenic, a 19-year-old outfielder, was the sixth overall selection this year and hit .286 with six homers, 42 RBIs and 15 steals in 56 games of rookie ball. Dunn, a 23-year-old right-hander, was the 19th overall pick in 2016 and was 8-8 with a 3.59 ERA this year over 24 starts at Class A and Double-A.

Seattle went 87-73 this year and hasn't made the playoffs since 2001, the longest postseason drought among the four major pro American sports. The Phillies, who added Santana and Jake Arrieta last offseason, finished 80-82 after leading the NL East in early August.

Briefly

Steelers RB Conner out against Raiders

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers will head to Oakland without running back James Conner.

Coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday that Conner is dealing with a sprained left ankle and will not play when the AFC North leaders take on the last-place Raiders.

Conner, who is second in the NFL in rushing touchdowns (12) and fifth in yards rushing (909), suffered the injury in the fourth quarter of a 33-30 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers. The team initially believed Conner was dealing with a leg contusion, but said the injury turned out to be more serious than originally thought.

The Steelers (7-4-1) will turn to Steven Ridley and rookie Jaylen Samuels when they face the Raiders. Ridley, an eight-year veteran, has 56 yards on 18 carries this season. Samuels, a fifth-round pick, has seen his playing time increase of late as the primary option of relieving Conner.

Samuels has 12 carries for 31 yards this season and has proven to be a capable receiver out of the backfield. Samuels has seven receptions for 54 yards, including a game-tying 10-yard catch-and-run late in the fourth quarter against the Chargers shortly after Conner went down.

"We've got a great deal of confidence in Ridley, got a great deal of confidence in Jaylen, particularly in Jaylen, who has been on the rise last couple weeks," Tomlin said.

Tomlin said the team is planning on taking a committee approach to the running game while Conner is out, but didn't rule out turning to one back. Pittsburgh admitted the depth issue presented by Conner's injury by promoting Trey Edmunds from the practice squad. Edmunds' younger brother, Terrell, is a rookie safety for Pittsburgh.

Berhalter: US team 'needs direction'

NEW YORK — Gregg Berhalter says he inherits a U.S. soccer team "with potential" but that needs "direction" and "development" after missing the World Cup for the first time since the 1980s.

Berhalter, who spent the past five seasons as coach of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew, was introduced Tuesday and takes over an underachieving U.S. team in transition. Incoming coach Dave Sarachan took over when Bruce Arena quit and gave debuts to 23 players in 14 months.

The first person to run the Americans after playing for them at the World Cup, Berhalter coaches his first game on Jan. 27, an exhibition against Panama at Glendale, Ariz. He says, "I don't think it's appropriate for me to talk about the failure of the past."

Berhalter's 47-year-old brother, Jay, is the U.S. Soccer Federation's chief commercial and strategy officer and will be a candidate to succeed Dan Flynn as the USSF's chief executive officer, according to USSF President Carlos Cordeiro.

Kurt Busch moving to Ganassi Racing

CONCORD, N.C. — Kurt Busch and sponsor Monster Energy will move to Chip Ganassi Racing next season for Busch's 20th season in NASCAR.

The partnership announced Tuesday is a one-year contract for Busch to drive the No. 1 Chevrolet with primary sponsorship from Monster. It is believed the one season as teammate to Kyle Larson will be Busch's final year of fulltime NASCAR competition.

Busch won NASCAR's Cup title in 2004 and counts the Daytona 500 and Coca-Cola 600 among his 30 career victories. He spent the last five seasons with Stewart-Haas Racing.

Busch will replace Jamie McMurray, who has driven for Ganassi in 13 of his 17 seasons at the Cup level. McMurray is expected to race in the Daytona 500 for Ganassi, and he's been offered a management role with the team.

Mordic ends Ronaldo, Messi strugglehold

PARIS — Luka Modric ended the long reign of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the Ballon d'Or for the first time on Monday, while another first saw Norwegian forward Ada Hegerberg win the inaugural women's trophy.

Messi and Ronaldo had won every Ballon d'Or since 2008, and usually fought only each other for the greatest recognition among soccer's elite. Women's fight for recognition on the biggest stage took a big step with Hegerberg's award.

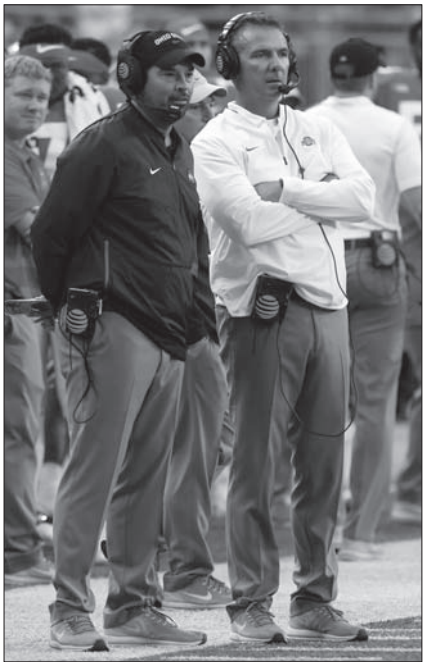
Modric won the Champions League with Real Madrid and then guided Croatia to the World Cup final in July.

Ronaldo was second in the poll followed by France forward Antoine Griezmann. France's teen star, Kylian Mbappe, was fourth. Brazil star Neymar was third last year but only 12th this time. Messi was fifth in the voting, having been runner-up to Ronaldo the past two years and in the top three every year since 2007. Modric had never previously been in the top three.

France Football magazine has been awarding the Ballon d'Or since 1956, and created a women's award for the first time this year.

Hegerberg is a three-time Women's Champions League winner, with French side Lyon and scored a tournament-record 15 times last season.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer, right, and offensive coordinator Ryan Day watch from the sidelines against Tulane on Sept. 26. Meyer said Tuesday he's retiring after the Rose Bowl. Ohio State named Day as his replacement next season.

Briefs

Ohio State coach Meyer retiring after Rose Bowl

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Urban Meyer, the highly successful coach who won three national championships and sparked controversy this season for his handling of domestic violence allegations against a now-fired assistant at Ohio State, announced Tuesday that he will retire after the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

The university announced the decision in a statement but did not say why Meyer was leaving after seven years at the Big Ten school, where he has an 82-9 record. The 54-year-old Meyer has previously cited health concerns. He has an arachnoid cyst in his brain that causes severe headaches, and had shown obvious effects of being in pain on the sideline this season.

A news conference was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon with Meyer, school officials and offensive coordinator Ryan Day, who will take over as the 25th head coach of the storied program where Meyer won a national title in 2014 after two at Florida (2006, 2008). It was Day who led the Buckeyes when Meyer was suspended for three games to start this season over his role in the handling of assistant coach Zach

Smith, who was accused by his ex-wife of domestic abuse.

Meyer said he knew about the allegations against Smith, grandson of former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce — but wasn't sure they were true and kept Smith on staff because no criminal charges were filed. The university cited that lapse in suspending Meyer after an investigation.

Source: Louisville tabs Satterfield to be coach

Louisville has tabbed Appalachian State's Scott Satterfield to be the Cardinals' next football coach.

A person with knowledge of the situation says the school has reached an agreement with Satterfield. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity because neither the school nor Satterfield had publicly announced the decision. Louisville scheduled a Tuesday afternoon news conference with a "special announcement" about the program.

The 45-year-old Satterfield emerged as Louisville's next reported choice after Purdue's Jeff Brohm turned down the offer

from his alma mater last week to remain with the Boilermakers. Satterfield has led the Mountaineers to a 51-24 record in six seasons, including 10-2 this year with a Sun Belt Conference championship. Appalachian State will face Middle Tennessee in the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 15.

Satterfield will replace Bobby Perrino, who was fired on Nov. 11 after a 2-8 start. Lorenzo Ward was 0-2 as the Cardinals' interim coach.

Clemson WR Renfrow wins Burlsworth Trophy

SPRINGDALE, Ark. — Clemson wide receiver Hunter Renfrow won the Burlsworth Trophy on Tuesday, which goes to the top college football player who began his career as a walk-on.

Renfrow was chosen over finalists California running back Patrick Laird and Wyoming safety Marcus Epps.

Renfrow has been a key contributor on four Clemson teams that have made the College Football Playoff. This season he has 41 receptions for 472 yards and a touchdown. In four seasons, Renfrow has 180 receptions for 2,061 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Finalists: Tagovailoa's Heisman campaign began last season

FROM BACK PAGE

Tagovailoa's Heisman campaign started the final game of last season, when he came off the bench as a freshman to lead Alabama to a comeback victory in the national championship game against Georgia. His first season as a starter has been as good as advertised, with 3,353 yards passing, 37 touchdown passes and just four interceptions. Tagovailoa would be the third Alabama player to win the Heisman since 2009, but the first quarterback, joining tailbacks Mark Ingram and Derrick Henry.

Murray replaced last year's Heisman winner, Baker Mayfield, for the Sooners and has been just as good. The junior, who has already signed a \$4.7 million deal to play baseball with the Oakland Athletics next year, has passed for 4,053 yards and 40 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Oklahoma would become the fourth school, joining Yale, Army and Southern California, to have Heisman winners in consecutive seasons, but the first to have quarterbacks win it in back-to-back years.

Haskins, a third-year sophomore, shattered numerous Big Ten passing records this season, throwing for 4,580 yards and 47

Heisman finalists' numbers

3,353

Season passing yardage for Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa.

37

Season touchdown passes by Tagovailoa.

4

Interceptions throw this season by Tagovailoa.

4,053

Season passing yardage for Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray.

40

Season touchdown passes by Murray.

7

Interceptions thrown this season by Murray.

4,580

Season passing yardage for Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins.

47

Season touchdown passes by Haskins.

8

Interceptions thrown this season by Haskins.

SOURCE: Associated Press

touchdowns to lead the country in both categories. Haskins is the first Buckeye finalist since Troy Smith won the Heisman in 2006.

Ohio State, Southern California and Notre Dame have won the most Heisman's with seven. Oklahoma has six.

The Heisman has been dominated by quarterbacks over the last two decades. The last two winners have been QBs, and since

USC's Reggie Bush won the Heisman in 2005, 10 quarterbacks have won it.

Tagovailoa seemed like he would be a runaway Heisman winner heading into the final month of the season, but Murray closed the gap by continually hauling out Oklahoma's faulty defense. Tagovailoa still seemed poised to head to New York as the favorite until last Saturday when he threw two interceptions and didn't finish the Southeastern Conference championship game against Georgia because of a sprained ankle.

Murray and Haskins, meanwhile, both had huge games on championship Saturday, adding some suspense to the race, but also separating themselves from the rest of the contenders.

Washington State quarterback Gardner Minshew II and West Virginia quarterback Will Grier had been in the Heisman mix for much of the season and put up numbers to rival Tagovailoa, Murray and Haskins, but both fell short of leading their teams to conference championship games.

Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor leads the nation in rushing, with 1,989 yards, but with the Badgers struggling to 4-5 seasons, he didn't make the Heisman cut.

NFL

What's next for Pack?

President to hire coach; Rodgers not involved in process

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers' head-coaching vacancy should be appealing for one big reason.

He plays quarterback and signed a four-year, \$134 million contract extension this year.

Two-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers, though, will not be involved in the process of selecting Mike McCarthy's successor, but is free to provide input, team president Mark Murphy said on Monday.

And that seems fine with Rodgers, who said he was focused on the Packers' final four games under interim coach Joe Philbin.

"I think there's an interest in who the next guy will be, but [Murphy and general manager Brian Gutekunst] and I have always had good lines of communication, their offices, like they say, are always open," Rodgers said. "I'm not needing to be involved in that process."

Murphy said Rodgers was also not part of the decision to fire McCarthy following the stunning 20-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday that dropped Green Bay to 4-7-1. Chances of making the playoffs are slim.

It appeared that most players had already left Lambeau Field by that point, with many Packers saying they had learned of the firing on social media or through text messages.

"Found out probably the same way you did at the same time you did," receiver Davante Adams said on Monday. "I was definitely surprised. But, it's a business and business is business, and that's what it is."

Rodgers was already home to celebrate his 35th birthday when he found out.

"I'm sure I found out the same way that most of you found out," Rodgers said, "and

"I think this decision was about changing our course more than anything. We just felt like it was a time to change the course."

Brian Gutekunst
Green Bay Packers GM

was just as shocked as many of you were."

He planned to reach out to McCarthy later Monday.

"I think him and I, like any relationship, we have our amazing times, we have our times where we butt heads," Rodgers said. "But the basis, like I said, was built on mutual respect and communication. ... We spent time together and growing our friendship and we accomplished a lot together."

From Adams to Rodgers, nearly every player in the locker room spoke highly of McCarthy, who overall had a successful tenure of 12-plus seasons highlighted by a Super Bowl win in the 2010 season. The 55-year-old McCarthy led the Packers to nine playoff appearances and four trips to the NFC title game overall.

But offensive struggles this year followed a 2017 season in which Rodgers broke his right collarbone and the team missed the postseason. In 2016, the Packers started 4-6 before winning eight straight to get to the conference championship game.

Murphy said it was time to make a change after the embarrassing loss to Arizona.

"I don't want to get into the details, but he was very professional," Murphy said when asked how McCarthy reacted to his dismissal. "He's a first-class person ... and



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Packers team president Mark Murphy, left, looks on as general manager Brian Gutekunst speaks during a press conference in Green Bay, Wis., on Monday. The Packers fired head coach Mike McCarthy after a loss to the Cardinals on Sunday.

made a comment that, 'It's the coaching profession. I know what I got into when I became a coach.'"

Gutekunst will be heavily involved, along with a committee, in hiring the next coach, though the decision will belong to Murphy, the highest-ranking executive in the NFL's only publicly owned franchise. He adjusted the Packers' organizational structure in January, when Gutekunst was promoted to replace Ted Thompson as GM, to have McCarthy report directly to the team president.

"The structure, again, you're focused on the structure," Murphy said in response to one of several questions about how the Packers' organizational flow chart could be perceived by potential coaching candidates. "The most important thing is the people and the relationships."

"Brian and I have a great relationship," Murphy said. "I think we'll be in good shape, and I'm confident we'll be able to hire an excellent coach."

Murphy has more football experience

than the average team president, having played safety under Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs for the Washington Redskins. Also a lawyer, Murphy had extensive experience in sports administration before becoming Packers president/CEO in 2007. He was athletic director at Northwestern, where he hired coach Pat Fitzgerald, before coming to Green Bay.

Murphy also views Philbin as a candidate. He would like to evaluate the veteran assistant and former Dolphins head coach over the next four weeks.

Off the field, the move to dismiss McCarthy gave the Packers an early start on the coaching search. Murphy and Gutekunst offered few specifics when asked what they were looking for in the next coach, other than the team would wait until after the season to make a hire.

"I think this decision was about changing our course more than anything," Gutekunst said. "We just felt like it was a time to change the course."

Hunt latest case of league's reactive discipline

By BRO MAADDI
Associated Press

The NFL is still out of its league when it comes to discipline for players with troubles off the field.

Kareem Hunt is the latest example of the NFL's delayed and inconsistent approach toward serious matters despite league efforts to improve following its mishandling of Ray Rice's domestic violence case in 2014.

From Greg Hardy to Mychal Kendrick to Reuben Foster, the NFL has taken different approaches on a case-by-case basis when players misbehave. That has drawn a backlash from critics who see such action as erratic and, at times, pandering to public perception.

Hunt, the former Kansas City running back, was placed on the commissioner's exempt list Friday after TMZ released a video showing him pushing and kicking a woman during a February scuffle at a Cleveland hotel. The video's jolt across the sports world accelerated a case that had been effectively put on the backburner for both the club and the league,



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

The Kansas City Chiefs released running back Kareem Hunt after video surfaced that showed the NFL's reigning rushing champion knocking over and kicking a woman in a Cleveland hotel hallway in February.

with Hunt losing his job the same day — a sharp fall for an elite playmaker for one of the most explosive offenses in football.

The Chiefs said Hunt had lied to them about the scuffle, an assertion Hunt acknowledged in an interview with ESPN on Sunday. But authorities never charged

Hunt with a crime and the league's internal investigation — under guidance implemented after the lengthy legal saga involving the former Ravens running back Rice — stalled when NFL officials couldn't get in touch with the woman.

Hunt said he never saw the video until it was released publicly. And he said the league never asked to speak with him directly.

NFL officials say they tried several times to get video of the confrontation, but couldn't because the hotel said its corporate policy only allowed footage to be given to law enforcement. And Cleveland police say they didn't pursue the video because it wasn't a felony case.

Now, the NFL says it will make "further attempts to speak to the complaints involved in the incident," and have "further conversations with all parties involved."

Just like it did during the Rice case in 2014, the NFL is changing its reaction amid jarring video prompting new public outcry.

But the league also must conform to the collective bargaining agreement, which gives players certain protections through their

union. Still, the agreement grants Commissioner Roger Goodell ultimate authority to issue punishment. That has been a major point of contention for the NFL Players Association and is shaping up to be a major sticking point once the broader agreement expires in 2021.

NFL and NFLPA officials did not respond to messages seeking comment from The Associated Press.

Hunt cleared waivers on Monday and could sign with another team. He can't play while he's on the exempt list, but it's up to Goodell and league officials to decide when to take him off when — or if — they see fit.

Foster was claimed off waivers by the Washington Redskins last week after the San Francisco 49ers released the linebacker following a domestic violence arrest. Washington faced immediate backlash as the latest example of an organization looking past off-field troubles toward potential on-field production.

In September, linebacker Michael Kendricks pleaded guilty to securities fraud and conspiracy and was released by the Cleveland

Browns. He was quickly signed by the Seattle Seahawks, then suspended for eight games by the NFL for his role in an insider trading scheme. Kendricks faces up to 25 years in prison with sentencing scheduled for next month.

Still, Kendricks was officially reinstated by the NFL on Monday and has been with Seattle the past two weeks. Seahawks coach Pete Carroll says team officials "don't have any hesitation" about playing Kendrick against Minnesota next Monday night.

Hardy was convicted in July 2014 of assaulting and threatening a woman who claimed the 6-foot-4, 275-pound player threw her in a bathtub and onto a sofa covered with guns before threatening to kill her. He appealed the ruling and was allowed to play the first game of the season before the Carolina Panthers placed him on the exempt list. Hardy didn't play the rest of the season but signed an incentive-laden, \$13.1 million deal with the Cowboys and played 12 games in 2015 after serving a four-game suspension. He's been out of the league the last three years, focusing on a mixed martial arts career with the UFC.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	331	259
Miami	6	6	0	.500	244	300
Buffalo	4	8	0	.333	178	293
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	243	307
South						
Houston	9	3	0	.750	302	235
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	325	279
Tennessee	6	6	0	.500	221	245
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	203	243
North						
Pittsburgh	7	4	1	.625	346	282
Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	297	214
Cincinnati	5	7	0	.417	286	371
Cleveland	4	7	1	.375	266	312
West						
Kansas City	10	2	0	.833	444	327
L.A. Chargers	9	3	0	.750	340	249
Denver	6	6	0	.500	276	262
Oakland	2	10	0	.167	220	367

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	247	223
Philadelphia	6	6	0	.500	258	266
Washington	6	6	0	.500	233	257
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	267	315
South						
New Orleans	10	2	0	.833	419	269
Carolina	6	6	0	.500	304	306
Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	318	355
Atlanta	4	8	0	.333	296	353
North						
Chicago	8	0	0	.667	344	241
Minnesota	6	5	1	.542	275	270
Green Bay	4	7	1	.375	281	297
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	254	316
West						
y-L.A. Rams	11	0	0	.917	419	298
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	319	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	175	310
San Francisco	2	10	0	.167	255	336

y-clinched division

Thursday's games

Dallas 13, New Orleans 10

Sunday's games

Jacksonville 6, Indianapolis 0

Tampa Bay 24, Carolina 17

Houston 25, Cleveland 13

Baltimore 26, Atlanta 16

New England 20, Green Bay 17

Miami 21, Buffalo 17

Denver 24, Cincinnati 10

L.A. Rams 30, Detroit 16

N.Y. Giants 30, Chicago 27, OT

Tennessee 36, N.Y. Jets 29

Kansas City 40, Oakland 33

New England 24, Minnesota 10

Seattle 43, San Francisco 16

L.A. Chargers 33, Pittsburgh 30

Monday's game

Philadelphia 28, Washington 13

Thursday, Dec. 6

Jacksonville at Tennessee

Sunday, Dec. 9

New Orleans at Tampa Bay

N.Y. Giants at Washington

Atlanta at Green Bay

Indianapolis at Houston

N.Y. Jets at Buffalo

Carolina at Cleveland

New England at Miami

Baltimore at Kansas City

Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers

Denver at Arizona

Philadelphia at Dallas

Pittsburgh at Oakland

L.A. Rams at Chicago

Monday, Dec. 10

Minnesota at Seattle

Monday

Eagles 28, Redskins 13

Washington 7, 0 12 0-13

Philadelphia 7, 7 0 14-28

First quarter

Phl—Tate 6 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 7:31.

Second quarter

Was—FG Hopkins 44, 13:46.

Was—Peterson 90 run (Hopkins kick), 9:23.

Phl—Sproles 14 run (Elliott kick), 1:46.

Was—FG Hopkins 47, 1:11.

Fourth quarter

Phl—Matthews 4 pass from Wentz (Tate pass from Wentz), 14:10.

Phl—FG Elliott 46, 11:41.

Phl—FG Elliott 44, 4:48.

A—69,696.

Was 13, Phl 28

Total Net Yards 235 436

Rush Yards 147 334

Passing 131 306

Turnovers 1 1

Kickoff Returns 0-0 1-22

Interceptions Ret. 1-40 1-8

Comp-Acc-Int. 17-25-1 27-39-1

Sacks-Yards Lost 6-64-3 2-4-5

Fumbles-Lost 2-0 3-0

Penalties-Yards 10-69 5-38

Time of Possession 20:41 39:19

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Washington 9-96, Sanchez 1-8, Thompson 3-3, Crowder 1-9

PASSING: Philadelphia 13-21-1-00, Philadelphia, Wentz 19-30-1-00

RECEIVING: Washington, Crowder 4-36, Reed 4-21, Doctson 3-51, Thompson 3-15, Floyd 1-9

PUNTING: Philadelphia, Ertz 9-83, Tate 7-85, Agolover 4-56, Clement 3-47, Jeffery 3-31, Matthews 1-4.



MATT ROUNKE/AP

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz looks to pass during the first half of Monday's game against the Washington Redskins in Philadelphia.

Wentz leads Eagles past Redskins

Washington loses McCoy for season

By ROB MAADDI

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz was at his best back on the move again.

Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Darren Sproles ran for a score and the Philadelphia Eagles stayed in the hunt for the NFC East title with a 28-13 victory over the depleted Washington Redskins on Monday night.

The Eagles (6-6) won consecutive games for the first time since Nick Foles led them to a Super Bowl victory over the Patriots.

The Redskins (6-6) lost backup quarterback Colt McCoy to a serious right leg injury in his second game replacing Alex Smith, who broke his right tibia and fibula on Nov. 18. Mark Sanchez took his place.

Redskins coach Jay Gruden said after the game that, from what he understands, McCoy fractured his fibula and will miss the rest of the season.

Adrian Peterson ran 90 yards for a touchdown on Sanchez's first play under center, giving the Redskins a 10-7 lead. It was the longest run Philadelphia has allowed in franchise history but Washington's lead didn't last long.

Wentz, who hasn't scrambled much since returning in Week 3 from surgery to repair two knee ligaments, didn't run for any yards. But he ran around and

made big plays when he improvised and on designed rollouts.

"Anytime he can extend plays with his legs, he's such a great athlete, that's an advantage to the offense," coach Doug Pederson said. "Being able to do that allows us to stay on the field. He's gifted in doing that. It comes natural to him."

Sproles put Philadelphia up 14-10 on a 14-yard TD run in the second quarter. Wentz tossed a 4-yard TD pass to Jordan Matthews and connected with Golden Tate on a two-point conversion to extend the lead to 22-13 early in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles twice failed to score inside the red zone and still managed their second-highest point total this season.

They had a first down at the Redskins 2 in the second quarter, but Josh Adams was stopped for a loss on fourth down from the 1.

They had a first down at the Redskins 5 in the third quarter, but Wentz threw an interception right to Josh Norman.

Wentz finished 27-for-39 for 306 yards. He came out firing and led the Eagles to a score on their opening drive for only the third time season.

Welcome back

Sproles scored his first TD since Dec. 22, 2016. Sproles only played three games last season before he wore a knee ligament



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

Colt McCoy, right, fractured his fibula and became the second Redskins quarterback lost for the rest of the season.

and broke his forearm on the same play. He was sidelined since Week 1 this year because of a hamstring injury.

"I'm really happy for him," center Jason Kelce said. "I don't usually know who is back there but when I saw it was him and he got in the end zone, I had a big sense of joy. He's a phenomenal guy."

Record setter

Zach Ertz broke Brian Westbrook's franchise record for receptions in a season. Ertz has 93 catches and is closing in on Jason Witten's single-season record

(110) for tight ends. Westbrook had 90 catches in 2007.

"That's awesome, but I'm sure he's just happy we won," Wentz said.

Injuries

Redskins: LG Jonathan Cooper (arm), RB Tony Bergstrom (ankle), CB Fabian Moreau (knee) and LB Ryan Anderson (hamstring) left the game.

Eagles: DT Tim Jernigan (back spasms) left in the first quarter and LT Jason Peters came out on the final series with an undisclosed injury.

SPORTS



Wentz returns to form

Scrambling QB leads Eagles past Redskins » **NFL, Page 31**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FINALISTS

Either Tagovailoa, Haskins or Murray will win Heisman

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa, Oklahoma's Kyler Murray and Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins are the finalists for the Heisman Trophy, ensuring a quarterback will win the award for the 16th time in the last 19 years.

The finalists were announced Monday, hours after the deadline for 928 voters, including former winners, to submit their ballots.

Tagovailoa has been the favorite for most of the season, but Murray and Haskins finished strong. Unlike most seasons, there should be some real drama Saturday night when the Heisman is awarded in

New York City.

Tagovailoa and Murray will also face off in the College Football Playoff, when No. 1 Alabama faces No. 4 Oklahoma at the Orange Bowl semifinal on Dec. 29.

The finalists are determined by the margin of votes received, starting with the third- and fourth-place finishers. At least three and as many as five finalists are invited to the presentation ceremony.

The last time three quarterbacks were the only finalists was 2008, when Sam Bradford of Oklahoma won over Colt McCoy of Texas and Tim Tebow of Florida.

SEE FINALISTS ON PAGE 29



DARRON CUMMINGS, TOP, COOPER NEILL, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL WOODS, RIGHT/AP

Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins, top, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, above, and Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, left, were named finalists for the Heisman Trophy on Monday.

Inside: Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, 54, says he's retiring after Buckeyes face Washington in Rose Bowl, Page 29

No. 10 Michigan State pounds Iowa » College basketball, Page 27

